SUNDAY
April 9, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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THE HINDU ON SUNDAY

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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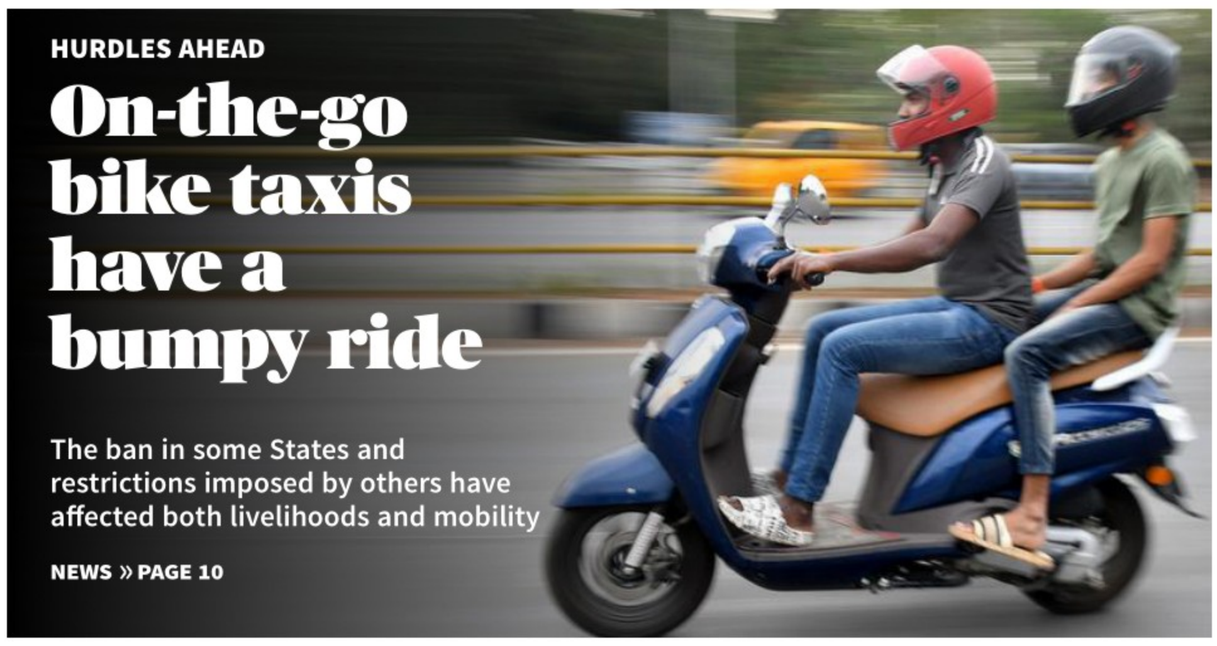


HURDLES AHEAD

On-the-go bike taxis have a bumpy ride

The ban in some States and restrictions imposed by others have affected both livelihoods and mobility

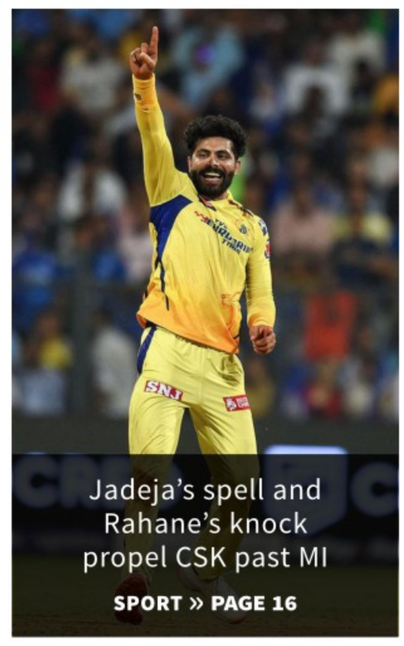
NEWS » PAGE 10

With comics back on shelves, Indian creative artists are upbeat

MAGAZINE » PAGE 1

What is behind China's renaming spree of sites in Arunachal Pradesh?

FAQ » PAGE 13



Jadeja's spell and Rahane's knock propel CSK past MI

SPORT » PAGE 16

NCERT's blue pencil on harsh realities

Agrarian distress in Vidarbha, pollution deaths, class-based killings by police have been dropped from Class 11 sociology textbook

Aroon Deep
Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

None of these deletions have been declared by the NCERT in its published list of revisions. FILE PHOTO

References to the water crisis in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra which leads to agrarian distress, deaths due to pollution in India, and class-based killings by the police have all been dropped from the newly printed National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks.

The Hindu mapped the changes in the Class 11 sociology textbook, *Understanding Society*, which revealed multiple instances of dropped topics. The culling of these topics was not declared in the public domain when the NCERT released the list of rationalised content last year.

The starkest deletion is in Chapter 3, *Environment and Society*, in a section titled "Why environmental problems are also social problems". Three full pages from the chapter that deal with two case studies have been culled: one is on water-starved Vidarbha having a growing number of water parks and amusement centres, while the other is about the killing of an 18-year-old labourer and four others by the Delhi police in the industrial area of Wazirpur.

The case study on Vidarbha's agrarian and water crisis was authored by veteran journalist P. Sainath and had first appeared in *The Hindu* on June 22, 2005. It describes the Fun and Food Village Water and Amusement Park in Bazargaon village of Nagpur district, a 40-acre haven that offers 18 kinds of water slides and games. Another branch of this water park is in Gurugram. *The Hindu* has confirmed that both the Nagpur and Gurugram facilities are still functional.

The deleted portion includes these lines: "Bazargaon falls in a region declared as scarcity-hit in 2004. It had never faced that fate before. The village also had its share of six-hour – and worse – power cuts till about May. These hit every aspect of daily life, including health, and devastated children appearing for exams. The summer heat, touching 47, made things worse. All these iron laws of rural life do not apply within Fun and Food Village. This private oasis has more water than Bazargaon can dream of. And never a moment's break in power supply."

The deletions also include the mention of two more such parks in the State: one in Buldhana district's Shegaon and one in Yavatmal.

Similarly, a huge chunk of an article by Amita Baviskar, initially published in the *International Social Science Journal*, titled "Between violence and desire: space, power, and identity in the making of metropolitan Delhi", has been dropped.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

KCR absent; PM says Opposition hit by SC view on plea against Central probe

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the flagging-off ceremony of a Vande Bharat Express in Hyderabad on Saturday. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a dig at Opposition parties, saying they have been jolted by the Supreme Court's refusal to entertain their appeal to stop the alleged misuse of Central agencies against them.

Mr. Modi was addressing a public meeting in Hyderabad after launching the Vande Bharat Express from Secunderabad to the temple town of Tirupati on Saturday, an event that was skipped by Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

The PM questioned the morality of the Opposition parties trying to seek the court's protection on inquiries into corrupt practices. "By refusing to entertain their plea, the court gave them a jolt," he said.

He was referring to the petition filed by 14 Opposition parties, in which they said that the Centre was arbitrarily using investigating agencies against Opposition leaders who disagreed with the Modi government. The parties later withdrew the petition after the SC told them they were not entitled to any special immunity.

'Dynastic corruption'

Mr. Modi repeatedly referred to *parivarvaad* (family rule), hinting at the Congress and Telangana's ruling party, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi.

Mr. Modi argued that the genesis of corruption was in family rule that wanted to control institutions. Some people are worried about the development vision of the present government and these are the same forces that promote family rule since corrupt money benefits them directly, he said.

He repeatedly asked the gathering whether the country should allow them to go scot-free and or whether the fight against such elements should continue. The crowd responded with an applause.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

NEARBY

List: BJP meeting in Delhi put off

BENGALURU
The BJP Parliamentary Board meeting that was scheduled to be held on Saturday evening, to decide on the party's first list of candidates for the upcoming Assembly elections, was postponed due to the non-availability of PM Modi in Delhi. » PAGE 6

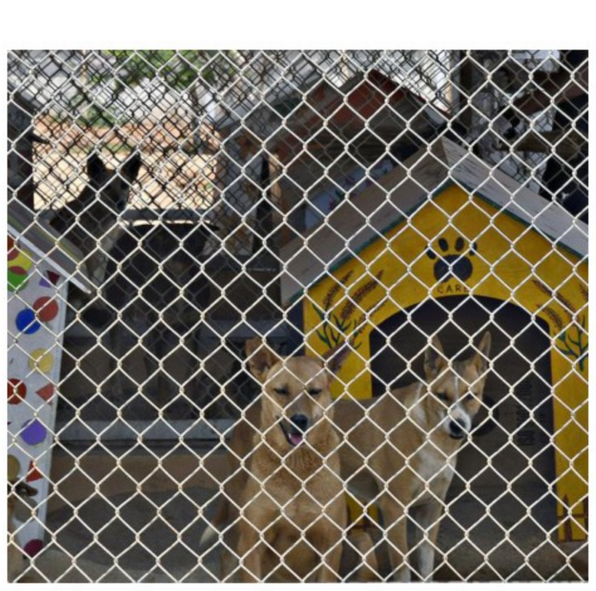
Weddings under the scanner

MYSURU
With the model code of conduct coming into force for the Legislative Assembly elections, elections officials have mounted an eagle-eyed vigil on the bulk supply materials for weddings and other functions. » PAGE 6

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 2 & 4
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Meet the 'paw squad' of KIA

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU



The shelter on the premises of Kempegowda International Airport takes care of stray dogs found in the area. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

A lesser-known aspect about the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) is a canine shelter for strays which is located inside the vast 4,009-acre airport campus.

KIA, the third busiest airport in the country, is surrounded by villages and due to this proximity, many stray dogs enter the airport premises in search of food. It is also not uncommon to spot strays near outside the terminal premises which houses a large number of food and beverage outlets. In order to address this issue, the Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL), operator of the airport, has set up a dog shelter.

Strays from villages

"The airport is surrounded by villages that come under the jurisdiction of Bengaluru urban and rural districts. BIAL being a proactive organisation discharges certain responsibilities as required under the concession agreement and as permitted under Rules, Regulations and Laws," said an BIAL spokesperson. The dog shelter on the airport premises named "BLR Paw Squad" is operated by an approved NGO and is used primarily for the handling of animal welfare like the vaccination and sterilisation of stray dogs.

"Passenger and public safety are of utmost importance to us, so all dogs on the airport premises are fully vaccinated, and their medical and identity records are maintained in compliance with government guidelines. In this respect, local government agencies and our partner NGO, which is primarily focused on the handling of animal welfare, are engaged and consulted for preparing and implementing joint programmes," the spokesperson added.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 3

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BISCUITS

Chef's delight: Haleem *bhatti* (earthen ovens) being set up at Shalibanda in the Old City of Hyderabad.

Hungry for haleem

Hyderabadi evenings during Ramzan are satiated by the slow-cooked dish of pounded wheat and mutton that comes with a GI tag

Nagara Gopal
nagara.gopal@thehindu.co.in

Ramzan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, is a time for fasting and abstinence for Muslims. The devout fast from dawn to dusk, but after sunset, it is time for delicious food shared with family and friends.

In Hyderabad, people are spoilt for choice when it comes to the evening meal during Ramzan. And at the top of the list is the widely popular haleem. A preparation of pounded wheat and mutton, chefs across restaurants slow-cook this Ramzan speciality for up to eight hours in a cauldron, known locally as a *degh*.

With haleem restaurants and stalls dotted across Hyderabad, it is no wonder that the dish now has a GI (Geographical Indication) tag. Mohammed Abdul Majeed, owner of the famed Pista House and president of the Hyderabad Haleem Makers Association, was the one who championed the effort to get the tag. The dish is now exported to North America, West Asia, Southeast Asia and Europe, helping thousands of families engaged in making the traditional Hyderabadi haleem.

The month brings seasonal employment opportunities for the hawkers of Hyderabad who peddle clothes, accessories and toys. Seasonal workers find employment in restaurants that require extra staff to meet customer demands.

Right coat: A small shop under the historic Chowk Masjid in Hyderabad bustles with activity during Ramzan, for it is here that large cooking utensils are brought for a shiny coat. The *kalaigaar* is the one who skilfully coats the vessels.

Stir and stew: The haleem is pounded, in a process known as *ghota maarna*. An arrays of cooks here pound the haleem with a *ghota* in a rhythmic fashion.

Touch of spice: The master chef pours ginger-garlic paste into the *degh* (cauldron). Other ingredients include wheat, dry fruits and spices.

Creamy texture: The next step entails adding a paste of dry fruits, cashew and almonds, and pulses. All go into the *degh* and bring about a lip-smacking preparation.

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Hindu SC/AD Girl 26,153, MBA, Bank, seeks Govt in Chennai. Contact: 9444054608.

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KANNADA DEVANGAR parents seek groom for divorcee girl 35 yrs TN Govt. Service. Other Suitable caste considered. Ph: 7356896214, 9446591614

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THIYYA GIRL 25/160, slim, MBA, Thrikketta, only adopted child of reputed parents from Calicut seeks alliance from professionally qualified well placed boys below 30 years. Parents please contact: 9074784721

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WANTED SUITABLE and Equally Qualified Protestant Christian Nadar, Good Looking Groom, Employed in Australia Preferably in Sydney. Below 35yrs 168cm to 180cm for a Protestant Nadar Girl 160cm, Wheatish, 30yrs, MS in Bio Medical Engineering, Presently an AU Permanent Resident living and working for a Global Medical Technology Company, Sydney, Australia. 80,000 AUD–PA. Ct: 7200045725

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

DKV MAY 94'/167 Fair BE. TCS Chennai, Parents Hindu / CSI. Seeks Groom Dr /Er. Govt Employee. 8056143638

CSI/CHRISTIAN 37yrs/165cms B.Tech (I.T), M.B.A, Eng CTS, Now at UK (Work Permit) seeks B.E & B.Tech MBBS and abroad Bride groom Ct: 9791322874, 8870560816.

TAMIL MUSLIM BE MBA 28/157 Fair Working in MNC Seeks Well Settled Bridegroom. Contact : 98424 13663

SUITABLE MATCH for girl, B.E., MBA, Deputy Manager State Bank of India, Mumbai, Age 27, Devendra Kula Vellalar, Star: Sitthirai, Rasi: Kanni, Native: Tirunelveli, Mobile: 9566897347, 6379758442

HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR Kongu Parayar 32 BE, M.Tech, PhD Seeks educated Profl groom. CT:8760883559 / 8637663072

HINDU NADAR girl, MOB 8/1994, ME, Ht 168 cms, 65 kg, Wheatish brown, Thiruvathirai, Mithunam with Chevvai Ragu Kaethu, Upper middle class Seeks equally qualified boy, well settled. Ct: 96265 15511

SUITABLE MATCH for Fair looking, IT Professional, Yadava Girl–B.E./ MBA– Yadava/ Intercaste–Age:30–31yrs– Vegetarian preferred. 9884789389

HINDU 25/160/MS, CS, USA, working for a reputed IT MNC in USA seeks suitable groom, preferably working in USA. Caste No bar. Ct: 9902806056

HINDU MUDALIAR Super Speciality Doctor 34 seeks Doctor / Industrialist groom between 34 & 37. Cast no bar. Ct: 9884202884

MUDALIAR (CNB) : 24/V.Fair & Beautiful, B.E, Textile Manufacturing & Export Business, Affluent Family, Seeks Groom Business / Abroad / India – 8939012419

HINDU 28, M.Com., PGDCA, Divorcee,working in MNC, Chennai, Caste no bar, seeks suitable Groom. Ct: 97866 16191, 94870 74569.

HINDU SC AD 36yrs 161cm BE MBA, Manager(HR) in Coal India Ltd @Nagpur, Well settled,caste No Bar, Seeks Qualify Groom, 8680095094/ 8248498021

HINDU NADAR, Chennai, 29, M.Tech, Govt Officer, Good Salary. Seeking PG, Well Settled, Educated Family in Chennai, 9445055308

MUDALIAR 25/168, Vishaka, Tula Rasi, M.Sc (Bio-Chemistry), Mysore based affluent family looking for their only daughter, from well settled & good family background, b/w 26 - 29 yrs groom, Govt/ PSU preferred. Ct: 9449003898/ 9480194897

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DOCTOR, Mudaliar, MS, 27/168,Fair& Slim Educated&Cultured,Upper Middle class family,Coimbatore seeks groom MD/MS/DNB/MCh/DM.Ct:9994498762

WORKING PROFESSIONAL, Tuluva Vellal Mudaliar Good looking Girl 35 Uthirattathy, Meenam, Family Seeks Alliance from First and Unmarried Bachelor Bridegroom Aged 35–37 Yrs, Employed, Caste no bar. Contact: After 7 PM; 7550245659

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VISWAKARMA MIRU–4,29 BTec NITT non IT Mgr 11Lpa slim beautiful Chennai.High profile invited. 9443945147

PILLAI/MUDALIAR, 33, Good looking, MBBS, MD Final yr, Well Settled family seeks Groom aged 33-36 yrs, Engineer / Business / Doctor. 9345855735

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YADAVA GIRL age 25 BE Working in Software co 9L. P/A seeking yadava groom CT 9381382000

HINDU NADAR 27, BE, 165cm, Working in Bosch, Income 130000 Seeks Suitable Groom KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

Christian & Hindu Nadar, 26/166, BE V.Fair, V.VIP,Seeks Equal Status Merchant Boys.7299525999 / 7550113468

AD 27/160 BHMS Dr.wrking seeks Groom blw 32yrs well settled Edu Hindu fmly Dr/Er/any Govt officr 9444220872

Naidu, 50yrs, +2 Completed, Widow, Seeks Suitable Groom. Good Family Age, Caste No Bar. Ct: 70925 69171.

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TAMIL

GROOM WANTED

Looking for Vanniyar Boy (Divorcee / Widower with or without Child) aged between 33 - 38 years. Doctor / Engineer / Govt. Officials for Hindu Tamil Vanniyar 31 years Post Graduate Doctor (Divorcee) with female child, only daughter of Doctor Parents. Parents of suitable person can send the Horoscope with personal details.

Contact : 89397 15299

TAMIL

✔ **Tamil Hindu** Adi Dravida Only daughter. 26/162cm/BA Economics from USA. Currently preparing for UPSC Civil services. Father retired Army Officer, Mother working in PSU at Delhi. Seek suitable alliance. email: bvr310524@gmail.com

DKV, 28/160, Revathi, B.Tech(NIT), Masters (USA) seeks well-educated, NRI groom from same community with clean habits. Preferably from USA/Canada. Contact: 94869 67791, 94430 27791.

TELUGU

BORN AUGUST 1990 165cm Ph.D Scholar smart medium complexion from a Reputed family seeks well educated and settled groom in India born not earlier than 1987. Call : 9790908109

CHENNAI BASED Professionally qualified girl 32,well settled, Seeking Groom(Age 32 to 35 yrs) with Clean Habits,well qualified having professional degree(BE/BTech) from cultured family Preferably (Tamil/Telugu Naidu) Contact: 9941348103

AFFLUENT FAIR girl, 1995 / 173 cm, B.Com CS, Gajula Balija, Anusham, seeks affluent groom with clean habits. Ph. 9445895188

NAIDU 27/165, M.Tech,Fair,Sr.Engineer,Wipro,Chennai, 700000. PA,Affluent Family,CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

BRIDES WANTED

BUSINESS

✔ **Hindu Unmarried** Groom, 39/ 5'7 Height, Fair, Self Employed Civil Engineer Post Graduate from Hyderabad looking for Educated Bride. Phone No-9985637279

COSMOPOLITAN

LOOKING SUITABLE match for Engineer, unmarried, 52/ 170cm, Kerala, caste/religion no bar. M:–9037442689

DIVORCEE

BENGALURU BASED, Software Professional, 6 ft / 1971 born – fair, Tamil, Hindu, Yadava – Male (divorced) seeks proposals from suitable, educated Hindu women (preferably) from Bengaluru. Caste no bar. Please email shankris2022@gmail.com / call +91 90085 42820 with details.

HINDU/ SC/ AD, (Tamil), BE ME, Chief Manager, PSU Bank, 34 Tall and good looking seeks alliance for remarriage from unmarried or divorced bride. Ph: 98400 96246 / 98408 66982

BRAHMIN IYER in Mumbai, 38yrs old divorcee, IIT IIM seeks Brahmin South Indian bride without issues. Contact: 98408 53946 / 91761 45760.

TAMIL

TAMIL ROMAN Catholic. Seeking a suitable bride for our son, 33 yrs, Fair, 172 cm tall, MS Aerospace, Head Of Operations, Germany. Caste No Bar. Contact: 9042607923

HINDU YADAVA, Handsome, clean habits 26 /179 B.Tech working in MNC, 30 LPA, very short lived first marriage only 6 months. Father PSU officer. CNB. 7904627469

WIDOWER age 62 Post Graduate-seeks a Long Term Relationship 8778447578. WhatsApp.

TAMIL HINDU BOY (BC). MBA. Age – 39. 1st Marriage. Very Honest & Faithful boy. Good beauty I can assure you that I have no bad habits. Full consent to be a GOOD HOUSE GROOM and a GOOD SON in a GIRL HOUSE. I will take care of my future wife like my mother. 2nd marriage is Accepted. (Caste & Religion no bar). Please Avoid brokers. Call: 91235 – 89257

PVT COLLEGE Professor 53/Divorcee Vellalar Seeks Widows Age45–50, Teachers or Unemployee, True Life Partner or Life Companion Ct:8148779326

VISHWAKARMA 40, Divorced, Slightly disabled (Foot drop) DCE Manager P Ltd, 40k. caste no bar. Seeking understanding life partner. 8015624255

MUDALIAR / Agamudayar / Thuluva Vellalar bride wanted for 29 yrs, US educated (both under and Post Grad) 1,50,000 USD, SWE in the top Corporate Employed Boy from affluent family in Chennai – 8925019776

MUDALIAR, 35, 1st marriage, MSc (Media), salary 3.6 lakh P/A + rental income from property, Punarpoosam, Educated family, seeks educated, employed brides 27 to 32 age contact 9840276814 (W)

BRAHMIN GOOD Looking Groom 39 Chennai Divorced &Well Settled Income Monthly 5 Lak Bride Wanted 8754536193

VANNIYAR 36/180, BSC, MSC, Phd., Pursuing, Professor/ Digital Marketing Specialist. 9L /PA. Revathy CNB in MBC Educated Girl Ct; 9840044473

SC ADIDRAVIDAR 28/B.E, Govt Job (Probationery Officer) State Bank of India 53000Pm Seeks Bride 7200067015

ARCOT MUDALIYAR 28/B.E, Central Govt Job, Section Engr (Southern Railways) 60000Pm Seeks Bride 9514173518

BRAHMIN GOUTHAMA Rohini, 26 yrs, 168 cms, B. Tech (Genetic engineering), M.Sc. Genomic Medicine (London, UK), Settled in Chennai, Affluent business family. Seeks Brahmin girl, professional, aged below 25 yrs. WhatsApp Parent: 93422 68247

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIYAR, Divorced, 41 Mirugasiridam PhD TN Govt Job Rs 1.21 Lakh P/M,170cm,70kg, 7904550883

HINDU DEVENDIRA kula vellalar M.E., 29/168 Asst. Engg. in PWD seeks suitable bride 8248195168, 8667380725

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIYAR Family Seeks Match for Their Son / BE / Aug 1996 / Slim / Wheatish / 175 cm / CNB / Chennai Owns Industry. (www.vgsref.com) (www.vgsprayag.com), 9790753377

DKV 33/173 Hastham Manager Govt. Bank seeks suitable bride from educated family. Caste No bar. 9940507235

VISWAKARMA TAMIL Veg 36/178 BE (Mech) Hastham Fair 50k pm Seeks suitable bride CNB only Veg Ct:9884352960

IITIAN 6'2 Mudaliar born in Nov 91 wkg as Techinical Lead at Hyderabad in Top MNC Sal 60 lacs seeks Bride 5' 4 Engineer,CA Doctor.Ct: 7382620365

HINDU DKV Pallan ME, 41/167, Manager, National Bank 1.2 lac pm. Seeks Bank, Govt, Teaching Staff. CELL: 99652 11259

HINDU NADAR 30, BE, 180cm, Income 3Lakhs,Workingin Kuwait Seeks Suitable Bride. KA Ramannadar 9380791999

HINDU 55 Yrs, Mutually Separated, seeks life partner around 45. Middle Class Good Family. Ct 8428080722

NEED ALLIANCE for a Lawyer 29/6ft. LLM Vadama Affluent family Kerala origin Son of former high court judge practicing in SC Girl should be educated, cultured and supportive.Contact 9846173871 Emailid-– rchitam66@gmail.com

HINDU BRAHMIN Caste No Bar, 1957/5. 11/Fair, Nanganallur, Chennai–61, Whatsapp 9884676394.

TAMIL

VAANIYAR CHETTY– age 37 visagam / 176 / MS (Sweden) working Sweden 60L PA, (Swedish Citizen & OCI) Seeks (BE / MS / MBA / MCA / CA / Ph.D) Prof. Bride CNB. Ct:9840429799

CHETTIAR (CNB) 31 Moolam star, Civil Engg, Coimbatore. Rich and Affluent family. Very fair and good looking only son seeks bride from decent family 9894657750

SMART WELL settled Nadar groom working in IT company, age 30 years height:173 cm complexion: wheatish brown education Qualification: B.E, Income: 12 lakhs/PA seeking for a suitable bride who is educated and career oriented (caste no bar) horoscope optional according to the bride's side, Contacting person: groom's mother. Cell : 9944491730, 9159036165. Mail: rajashanthi15@gmail.com.

A WELL settled Healthy Hindu 57, Separated Seeks Elite Independent Lady as life partner & Soulmate Caste Nobar 7397087032 mducbe18@gmail.com

HINDU MUDALIYAR 25 BE 178cm Working in Netherland Inc–10Lacs well settled Rich 9710093999 / 8939691888

BRIDE WANTED for an Army Officer, Saiva Pillai, Age 32 years. Rasi: Kadakam. Star: Ayilyam. Contact No: 82487 00585

IYER KETTAI 39 BE LLB, 18L/pa own house, company all veg ok. divorcee excuse CNB. 9500456893/ 6369157055

VADAKALAI Iyengar Boy, Punarpoosam 5'ft 6 Inch, Bharatwaja Gothram, 1979, never married, MNC, Chennai, M.S. I.T, 24 Lacs pa seeks never married Brahmin Brides. Cont with BPH Whats App 7299704899 / 9443092289

SEEKING SIMPLE, Clean Habits,Vegetarian Bride willing to be Homemaker for our Son Ms(CS) USA,28yrs/178cms,Iyer,Vegetarian & Clean Habits.Financial Status of the Bride does not matter.Ct. WhatsApp:+1 732 372–8410

IYER VADAMA Naidhruva Kashyapa 43 Divorcee Progressive Outlook S/W Engg MNC Bangalore seeks suitable alliance from like-minded Brahmin Girls (Unmarried) Mobile: 9952892314 Mail: vivaha.lagnam.2023@gmail.com

SMARTHA BRAHMIN Telugu Bachelor 45/175 Koundinya Chithirai, B.Tech M.E, Sr DGM, Seeks Brahmin Bride, Ct. lsbalaji94@yahoo.com, 9445006191

BRIDES WANTED

Alliance invited from Educated Muslim widow or divorcee without child age 40 To 50 for my Son age 58, B.com, Businessman. His wife expired 40 days before leaving one son age 16.

Ph: 94430 11354

SOZHIYA VELLALAR, 38/165cm, Bsc MBA, Senior Consultant in Software at Chennai. 15Lakhs P.A Ct: 9840937725

31 / 164cm ME. Assistant Professor Chennai Divorcee seeks suitable Bride Unmarried/ Divorcee- No issue. Naidu/ Mudaliar / Pillai / Chettiar Preferred. Contact : 94430 52596 / 94456 89306.

Tamil/Professor, 42/170, PhD, Vellore/ Seeks Educated Girl/ Age-27-36/ Contact: 9791177668.

HINDU/ SC/ AD, (Tamil), BE ME, Chief Manager, PSU Bank, 34 Tall and good looking seeks alliance for remarriage from unmarried or divorced bride. Ph: 98400 96246 / 98408 66982

TELUGU

BALIJA NAIDU 34yrs 175cm BE MBA. Architect and Interior designer 18L PA. Well settled family in chennai Divorced with in two months Caste no Bar 9884065632 / 9176667276.

NAIDU 27 years,182cm, Magam MD Studying in USA seek Bride from Decent family willing to study / work in USA. Contact: 96771 22110

KSHATRIYA RAJU (Telgu) Groom Doctor MD Radiology (16 sept 1993) Chennai, Same community bride with PG preferred. Contact: 9500198706.

KAMMA NAIDU, Very fair & handsome, BE, 29yrs, 5ft 9inch, SWE, MNC Chennai, 18 LPA, seeking very fair, slim & good looking bride from the same community, Call: 9841025124

BALIJA NAIDU 28/B.E., Govt Job, (AE, TNEB) 60,000Pm Seeks Bride. 9087604894

BALIJA NAIDU, Rishabam, Rohini, 30/167, B.TECH (Business Manufacturer And Trader) Fair Seeks Well Settled Educated & Good Family. Naidu Bride in Chennai 9790963402

NAIDU 31/175,FAIR, V. Handsome,BE,Sap Engineer, HCL,2400000.PA,Affluent Family, CNB. 7299576644,7299576666

Brahmin/Padmashali, Veg, 27Y,5'10", MBA software, 8 Lac, well settled Boy from Hyderabad, Poorvabhadra 3 Padam, Kumbharasi seeks Bride frm Traditional Brahmin/Padmashali Families, only Veg. Contact: 9440650634

BRIDE WANTED

Elite Kamma Naidu Family Located in Chennai, Seeks Alliance for thier only Son 02 / 08 / 1999, 5.8, Meenam Uthirattathi,Fair,B.com,MBA with Good Networth. Seeks Alliance from any Naidu Family only (Sub sect ok)

0-98410 71701

NAIDU, 27/175cm, MBA, MNC (HR), Chennai. seeks suitable match for Twin Brothers, well settled ,Slim, Handsome Bride. Ct:90033 61254 / 90031 53493

Caste Nobar /1st & 2nd,late Marriage /SC/Handicapped/45y/BE/MBA/Ph.D/ Pvt.Emp,4L,P/A,Hyd. looking for Broad Understanding Bride.Ph:7702438915.

URDU

SMU CHENNAI based BE (IT) 33/171cm Seeks Pious Educated Girl (Age 25to30) from Decent Family. Whatsapp 7695859245. Email gshahin92@gmail.com

SOFTWARE ENGINEER Fair 5.9 / 29, Seeking Bride Good Looking from an Orthodox, Educated Family. 9840403377

Wanted Well-Educated Girl working in USA for SMU boy (32, 5'11", B.Tech. MS) working in Calif on H1B. 9444943995, trahid23@gmail.com

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

TAMIL

REDDIYAR GROOM 51 Australia PR Divorcee and Bride 47 MBA looking for suitable Bride and groom Ct:whatsapp no +61 435 496 817

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 32, 178 cms, Businessman, MS from USA. Lives in Dubai. Parents are Working Professional. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match from any same community. Contact: 6366448343

MUDALIYAR, 27, 178 cms, Businessman, B. Tech. Lives in Chennai. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448344

CHETTIAR, 26, 185 cms, Businessman, MBA. Lives in Pondicherry. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

NAIDU, 29, 185 cms, Software Professional, MS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448344

SUNNI MUSLIM, 28, 170 cms, Doctor, MD/MS. Lives in Erode. Parents are Doctors. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded and well educated match. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

VELLALAR, 30, 165 cms, Management Professional, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

NADAR, 29, 155 cms, Doctor, MD from AIIMS. Lives in Chennai. Father is retired person. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded and well educated Doctor match from any similar community. Contact: 6366448343

NAIDU, 23, 168 cms, Engineer, BE. Lives in USA. Father is a Businessman. Mother is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448344

VANNIA KULA KSHATRIYAR, 28, 168 cms, Business Analyst, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Parents are into Business with a good net worth. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from the similar community. Contact: 6366448344

LINGAYATH, 27, 173 cms, Post graduate, from a Bangalore based high profile family with very good net worth. Looking for an amiable match from the same community in Bangalore. Contact: 6366448346

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 63 66 44 83 47

TELUGU

BALIJA/ GAVARA Sadhayam Kumbha, 31/ 5'5, B.E, Fair Good looking Girl for remarriage (Short lived) seeks suitable Groom India/Abroad Caste No Bar. Contact:8056093838/ 9500009694

GROOM REQUIRED for Balija Naidu /Kapu/Telaga 26y, H.160 fair, MBBS, Working Doctor from Hyderabad Seeking Doctor/ Engineer (Local/Abroad). Contact: 0973-36053453 & 9849951874.

NAIDU ISSULESS DIVORCE 1975,Working as Ofcr in TN PSU. Seeks Groom Preferably Chennai, CNB– 8778873501

wanted elite groom

Hindu Naidu Girl, 25yrs, 160cm, Slim, Fair, M.E, doing MBA in Chennai Looking from Affluent Family Preferably in India, with good values.

Ct: 93667 50524

GAVARA NAIDU 29/165 B.E(EEE) MBA.Seeks educated groom with good Job,Salary.9600626739 / 8344969541

Age 24 years/ 163, US based software Engineer, Kamma, Jesus believer, Groom Wanted Contact:8328031850.

URDU

MUSLIM SYED 23/165, M.Com Good looking girl. Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact : 94429 10133

SUNNI MUSLIM parents seek Allopathic Doctor or Non IT Engineer (Oil/ Gas / Petrochem/MNC Tamilnadu or Abroad) for daughter 30 Yrs Slim, Fair, Smart MBBS.M.S., Mobile:8056198771

SMU GIRL 25 / 165 well–to–do family, B.Design,Fair,Slim working seeks well Educated Groom working in US/ UK/ Canada/ Australia Ct.9841106166

DIVORCEE

Divorcee Age-65 Hindu seeks suitable Bride widow / divorcee, Chennai (caste no bar). Contact: 98401 67565

DOCTOR

HINDU MBC Maruthuvar (Vaithiyars), MBBS Own Clinic, 33, Tall and Good Looking seeks Alliance For Remarriage from Divorced Bride or Unmarried. MBBS, BSMS, BAMS or other degrees from Good Family Background. Caste No Bar. Ph: 9442788649, 7598179790

ENGINEER

Brmn / Veg Graduate Bride for 91 Born BE MNC. 9740444327

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 40 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

Suitble Empld Match for Delhi Gaur Brahiman vats non Manglk boy 30/ 5'8" ASO, DASS Gr 2.Parents working. Whatsapp 9711431818

KANNADA

Kannada Madhwa Vasishta Anusham 29Y 175cm MNC 21L seeks Employed Girls, Contact: 9025517922, Email Id: raghavendra03@rediffmail.com

MALAYALAM

MALAYALI EZHAVA Boy, 34 years/ 165 Cms, MDS, Settled in Tamil Nadu. Looking for MBBS / BDS Ezhava girl. Contact: 95002 34204 / 72004 72221.

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 34yrs/178cms, MBBS with dip in Cardiology Private Doctor good looking lives in Nagercoil, Innocent Divorcee seeks same caste qualified Bride/ Divorcee above 28yrs. Ct: 90039 83230.

TAMIL MUSLIM, 26, M.E., Structural Engineer, Handsome Groom seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 8754666944

CHRISTIAN 41/170 B.E Software Engineer, Chennai, Never married, seeks bride from Elite family, caste No bar, CT–9500188067

TAMIL

MD DOCTOR 39/180, Reddiyar. Mutual divorcee. Caste no bar. Ph 8124570336

IIM MBA Agamudayar, Mukkulathor, 97born/180cm,16L pa,Punarpoosam 2 seeks same caste Bride. 9842103232

60, SIMPLE, Healthy, Pretty, Decent. Seeking Good Looking Issueless Bride Caste No Bar. Ct: 7604841705

REDDIYAR (CNB) 31, Moolam, MBA Deloitte, rich – looking from Educated & Respectable Family.Ct. 9840405153

GROOM 34,BE, Good Family & Settled, Working in USA.Seeking Hindu Bride. Caste,Region & Age No Bar. Divorcee Bride also with/without child. email: vedha.880827@gmail.com; C9042021137

VISWAKARMA GROOM,SW Eng Revathi/ ME(Ph.d)31/167 /Fair/RS.6 L PA. Seeks Suitable Bride 9444247481, 8428432112

MUDALIAR, 29, BE, MBA, 176 cm, 28 Lacs P.A, Well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB Ct. 8778514465/ 7200866346

AGE 46, DME, Hindu Yadhavar, Business, First Marriage, Looking for Degree Completed Bride. Ct: 9952065594

61 YRS, without income seeks settled widow, physically challenged as life companion from TN/ Kerala/Karnataka only. Age & Caste No Bar. Whatsapp: 98651 90772 (Madurai)

✔ **PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR),** DOB:24–01–92, BE, Veg, Job: MNC (Software) Chennai, Annual Income: 23.5 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same or any other community. Ph: 9841784047 Email: pingme.arul@gmail.com.

HINDU 31 Years 185 cm. Currently working in Germany as a Senior Logistics Program Manager after doing MS in US. Well Settled Family. Star Hastham and BC. Seeks well Educated, Bride (Caste No Bar) from abroad or willing to move abroad for their only Son. 9840041041

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IMMD PERSONAL, Business,Property, Project, NPA Low Interest 7305912765

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RIYAS Muhammed Kuniya Kandiyil , R/O Flat No :904,Prestige Kew Garden, Off HAL Road, Yamalur, BLR–37, have changed my daughter's name from Aliya to Aliya Riyas vide afdvt dtd 05/04/2023.

I, JACQUELINE Ann Thomas, D/O Shirley Wilkins, R/O No A4–108, Provident Welworth City Apts, Marasandra, Doddballapur Mn Rd, Blr Rural–561203, have changed my name as Jacqueline Anne De Braganca Wilkins vide afdvt dtd 05/04/2023.

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Chandra Electricals, Chennai
9840023658, 9840235690

THE HINDU

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Customer's choice: A plateful of haleem makes for a satisfying meal. Today there are variations with mutton, chicken and even vegetarian specials.

Steaming plates: Soon after breaking the fast, *rozadaars* (those who fast) exit the Macca Masjid, one of the most prominent mosques in India, and head for a feast of haleem.

Going global: Containers with haleem ready for export. The Geographical Indication tag has helped the Hyderabadi delicacy gain worldwide fame.

Bursting with flavour: The haleem is poured into containers for sale. A generous helping of ghee is added to each pack.

From Page One

The 'paw squad' of KIA

Food is served to stray dogs on the KIA premises by an NGO. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

An airport official said that the dogs are not kept permanently at the shelters and that after sterlisation and rehabilitation is done, they are left to go.

The official added that the airport staff and security advise passengers to not feed the dogs. "The dogs, both in the shelter and those found on the airport premises, are fed by us through the NGO twice a day," the official added.

'Veda Patha', 25-day summer camp

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sri Shankara Veda Pathashale Trust, Bengaluru, is organising 'Veda Patha', a 25-day summer camp from Monday in two batches – between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., according to a release.

For details, contact the trust at #92, First Floor, 11th Main, Padmanabhanagar or send a mail to vedapata.net@gmail.com.

Opposition parties term Amul move an 'effort to kill Nandini brand'

Congress and Janata Dal (S) continue their attack on BJP government; Basavaraj Bommai accuses them of 'politicising' the issue

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Opposition parties in Karnataka have continued their fierce attack against the BJP government after Amul announced its plans to sell milk and curd in the Bengaluru market.

The former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy termed Amul's move "a ploy to kill brand Nandini" and argued that it would lead to unhealthy competition and destroy the cooperative systems.

A file photo of various types of Nandini milk and curd packets.

'Third conspiracy'

"This is the third conspiracy to finish the Nandini brand. Home Minister Amit Shah's statement to merge Amul and Nandini was the first ploy. Directions to use the word 'Dahi' on the curd packets of Nandini was the second one. These two attempts failed due to vehement opposition by Kannadadigas. Now, the Central government has resorted to the third conspiracy through Amul," alleged Mr. Kumaraswamy. He said that the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) never sold milk in Gujarat and respected the cooperative principles but Amul was doing another way round.

Kannada organisations carried out an online campaign protesting against Amul's move and to protect the interest of Nandini brand in the State.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has accused the Opposition parties of "politicising" the issue. "Nandini is a national brand. Nandini brand is being sold in many States. The State government has supported Nandini for its development. Nandini will become the number-one brand shortly. There is no need to fear Amul. Nandini is a well-established brand and all steps will be taken to overtake Amul in competition," he said.

Union Minister of State for Agriculture Shobha Karandlaje released a video on Saturday claiming that the Congress and the JD(S) were "hatching a conspiracy to defame the ruling party" using the KMF as a "political tool".

In a series of social media posts, the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) lashed out at Mr. Bommai by saying that the State BJP government is a "traitor". "The BJP has considered the silence of Kannadigas as a weakness. The BJP is ruining the distinct identity of the State," said the KPCC in a tweet.

People also lashed out at BJP national general secretary C.T. Ravi for his social media post. He said, "Slaves have no problem in being ruled by an Italian. But they have a problem when Bharatiya brand Amul sells its products in Karnataka just like many other brands. What a bunch of losers." One of the respondents sought to know if he would help market Nandini brand in Gujarat just as he was advocating Amul in Karnataka.

Mum on Amul's venture

On Saturday, the KMF issued a release and dismissed rumours about Nandini's merger with other cooperative societies or federations. It said the KMF is the second-largest milk-producing federation in the country and has been serving people for four decades. "Nandini brand is expanding its market through the quality of its products and competitive pricing. In recent years, Nandini products are available in Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kerala, and Goa. A total of 7 lakh litres of milk and curds are sold to customers in these places. The KMF has many plans to expand the market in the country," the release stated. However, no mention was made about Amul's move to sell milk and curd in the Bengaluru market.

The KMF is planning to write to the National Dairy Development Board requesting it to direct Amul not to venture into the Bengaluru market. "In Karnataka, Nandini is meeting the market demand. We would request the board to direct Amul to concentrate on places where there is scarcity," an official said.

Hoteliers swear by Nandini brand

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The hoteliers of Bengaluru have come in support of Nandini brand.

P.C. Rao, president of the Bruhat Bengaluru Hoteliers' Association, has said that hoteliers will continue supporting the Nandini brand by procuring milk. "We should wholeheartedly support the KMF that procures milk from our farmers and is the pride of our State. Nandini milk is the backbone of great tasting coffee and tea in Bengaluru," he said.

'COVID-19 batch' effect: A flood of applications for CET

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

This year, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) is flooded with applications for Karnataka Common Entrance Test (CET) to secure admissions for engineering and other professional courses. The KEA has received 2.5 lakh applications, which is already 37,000 more than last year. Even as the last date for submission has been extended till April 9, the KEA expects to receive over 50,000 more applications than last year.

"When compared with the last five years, this year's enrolment for CET is high. We have already received around 2.5 lakh applications and extended the last date for submission of applications till April 9. When compared with previous years, this year we expect 50,000 more applications to be submitted. The exam will be held on May 21, 22, and 23. Therefore, the number of examination centres will be increased and we will make arrangements for all the students to write the examination," said Ramya S., Executive Director, KEA.

A file photo of students appearing for the Common Entrance Test in Bengaluru.

The spike in the number of students applying for CET is attributed to the pandemic. In 2020-21, all students who took Class X exams except one were promoted without any examination, which has swelled the number of students writing the II Pre-University exam this year, leading to a natural spike in the students applying for the CET.

Class X results

The government had shut down all schools in 2020-21 and online classes were conducted. No exams were held and all students were promoted based on their attendance for online classes, assignments, and their performance in the previous years. Among 8,71,501 Class X students that year, all except one were promoted. Of them, 2.7 lakh students opted for Science stream in the pre-university course, most of whom now seek admission to professional courses and are now enrolling for the CET.

This was not the case earlier – the pass percentage for Class X was in the range of 75 to 80%. In 2019-20, it was 72.42% and in 2021-22 it was 85.63%.

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Police take up *suo motu* case against dagger-wielding driver, arrest him

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Ramamurthynagar police took up a *suo motu* complaint against a goods vehicle driver for threatening a scooter rider with a dagger in a road rage incident on Friday and arrested him. He has been identified as Arun Kumar, 23, a resident of Seegehalli.

The incident occurred near Ramamurthynagar bridge when the scooter rider noticed the accused was driving rashly and brushed against his scooter. The scooter rider stopped and shouted at him. Heated arguments ensued, following which the driver came out armed with a dagger and threatened the rider with dire consequences in the middle of the road.

The incident was captured on a mobile phone and uploaded on social media.

The DCP East Division asked the jurisdictional police to take action. They managed to contact the scooter rider but he refused to file a complaint.

The police on Saturday decided to register a *suo motu* case. The driver was tracked down with the help of the traffic police on Saturday evening. He has no previous criminal record, the police said.

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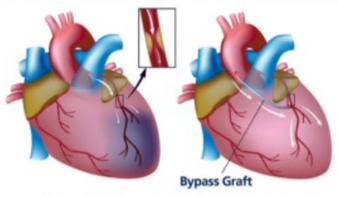
BYPASS OR STENTING - INDIAN DILEMMA

Blocks in the arteries of the heart is a very common problem in present generation. Blocks in heart can be tackled either by Stenting or Bypass surgery. Understanding the risks and benefits of each procedure is very important as the heart cannot be repaired multiple times.



Angioplasty and stenting means, the blocks in heart artery to some extent are opened up by a small balloon and an artificial tube is inserted across the block. This is ideal in a case of a sudden heart attack or single block in a artery. This seems easier and quicker solution to the problem. However, clinical trials have shown, stents are not suitable for people with main artery blocks and for patients with three or more blocks. People are afraid of surgery and out of fear opt for stenting. Stents get blocked over a period of time especially more so in diabetics.

Bypass surgery is the most natural way of treating this problem. In this operation patients own blood vessels, Left Internal Mammary artery and leg veins are used for bypass. In this operation all blocks are cleared at one time. This is a standard and safe operation.

Benefits of Bypass surgery over stenting

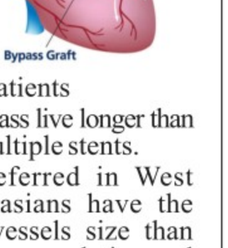
- Bypass is long term solution to heart problems. Survival is 15 to 20 years after bypass surgery
- Physiological - since blood vessels from own body are used as conduits, body accepts it naturally.
- Patient requires less medication over the life time
- Lesser procedures on heart again in lifetime.
- Preserves heart Function over long term, this gives better quality life to patients
- Patient with bypass live longer than patient with multiple stents.

Stents are preferred in West because Caucasians have the larger blood vessels size than south east Asian population and stenting is cheaper as compared to bypass surgery.

Bypass surgery is better for Indians because

- Bypass surgery is longer lasting than stents
- Stent won't stay open for long time because Indians have smaller blood vessels than western population and higher diabetic population where stents get blocked earlier
- Surgery is Cheaper than multiple stents in India
- Overall cost of heart treatment in the life time of patients can be brought down, with the surgery rather than stenting

Bypass surgery is long term solution to blockages in heart arteries. It gives better quality and longer life. Patient requires lesser medication over the life time. Thus it makes economically cheaper solution to heart problems in India.



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Karnataka in race with Madhya Pradesh to emerge as 'Tiger State'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release 2022 tiger enumeration results in Mysuru today

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

Karnataka is in the race with Madhya Pradesh to emerge as the 'Tiger State' of the country even as all eyes are on the 2022 tiger enumeration results which will be released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mysuru on Sunday at an event to commemorate 50 years of Project Tiger.

Karnataka's tiger population was pegged at 524 with a range from 475 to 573 tigers while Madhya Pradesh had 526 tigers with a range from 441 to 621 as per the 2018 enumeration results.

Karnataka reported 290 tigers in 2006, 300 in 2010, 406 in 2014, and 524 in 2018.

Sources in the Forest Department say that strong protection measures had helped increase tiger numbers, especially in Bandipur and Nagarahole.

Fifty years of Project Tiger is being commemorated at a function in Mysuru on Sunday. FILE PHOTO

Fifty years of conservation has helped shore up the tiger population at Bandipur from 12 in 1973 to 126 in 2018, and the 2022 figures are set to increase further and could cross 150 mark, officials say.

But conservation experts opine that the tiger population may be reaching saturation levels at not only Bandipur but also the adjoining Nagarahole.

This is also evident in the frequency with which both the parks are reporting human-tiger conflicts with increasing regularity.

Hence, officials aver it is imperative to increase protection measures and declare both Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary and M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary as tiger reserves so that nearly 2,000 sq km of forests are made available to absorb the spillover tiger population. While the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary is spread over 1,027.53 sq km, the M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary has an area of 906.18 sq km. Conservation thrust for Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary and M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary was a must to absorb surplus tiger population in Karnataka, according to Ramesh Kumar, Director, Bandipur Tiger Reserve.

"The Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary is contiguous to M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu. There are no major issues pertaining to corridor disturbance but for a few enclosures within the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary and they can easily be relocated," said Nandesh, DCF, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

The prey population base is also high in Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary to support tiger numbers and increase in protection since the last two decades has helped the recovery of wildlife, Mr. Nandesh added.

The NTCA which published Status of Tigers, Co-predators and Prey in India-2018 noted with reference to Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary that apart from tigers it was also home to elephants, wild boars, leopards, dholes, spotted deer, barking deer, sambar, four-horned antelope, common langur, bonnet macaque, honey badger, grizzled giant squirrel (Ratufa macroura) and smooth-coated otter etc.

With regard to M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, the proposal for declaring it as a project tiger reserve was cleared more than two years ago but the final notification is still pending with the State government.

Conservation biologists argue that providing corridor connectivity and protecting buffer zones will ensure the absorption of surplus or spillover population of wildlife, besides enabling migration and also help reduce human-tiger conflicts.

Adivasis to mourn '50 years of forest eviction'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Adivasis want the implementation of the Forest Rights Act which recognises their right over minor forest resources and access to ancestral burial grounds. FILE PHOTO

While the government is celebrating the success of 50 years of tiger conservation in India the adivasis of Hunsur have decided to mourn their eviction from forests. ''It is cause for celebration for the Forest Department but for adivasis it is a period of mourning as it was 50 years ago that most of us were evicted from our ancestral lands and forests'', said S. Sreekanth of Development through Education, an NGO based in Hunsur spearheading tribal causes.

He said adivasis have decided to pay tributes to elderly family members who have died away from their homes during the last 50 years even as the government celebrates the golden jubilee of Project Tiger.

The adivasis have a set of five demands which they would like to place before Prime Minister Narendra Modi who will be in Mysuru for the celebrations scheduled for Sunday. Though it is unlikely that they would be allowed to meet the PM, the memorandum and the set of demands would be submitted to Mr. Modi through the district administration.

Their main demand is the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) which recognises their right over minor forest resources and access to ancestral burial grounds etc. The adivasis also want the government to rescind its earlier decision of rejecting applications submitted by tribals seeking recognition of their rights under the FRA. The DEED also want the authorities to implement the recommendations of Prof.Muzaffar Assadi report on tribal rehabilitation as per which 3,418 families have to be suitable rehabilitated by the government. Mr. Sreekanth said in addition, nearly 1,500 families from H.D. Kote, Periyapatana, Saragur, Virajpet and other places- who were left out from the original list should be included for rehabilitation.

The tribals also want 35 taluks across 9 districts in the Western Ghats to be declared as a notified area so that it will grant more autonomy to tribal regions and pave way for their development.

Karnataka govt. spent ₹36.43 crore during PM Modi's visit on February 27

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

The State government spent over ₹36.43 crores to make arrangements for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Karnataka on February 27, the day he visited Shivamogga and Belagavi.

Mr. Modi was in Shivamogga to inaugurate the airport at Sogane village. Later in the day, he visited Belagavi, where he released the 13th installment of the PM Kissan Scheme and took part in a roadshow.

According to the Karnataka Gazetteer dated March 24, the State Government spent ₹21.06 crores to make arrangements for the inauguration of the airport in Shivamogga. The expenses included ₹4.25 crores for providing transportation facilities for the public to attend the event. The money was spent to provide water proof German pendals, green rooms for the PM, PM office, governor office, CM office, food for SPG, VVIPs, among others.

Later in the day, he went to Belagavi. The government spent ₹1.98 crores to put up 30-km-long barricade and exhibit tableaus.

Besides that, another ₹13.39 crores were spent at the public meeting held to release the 13th installment of PM Kissan Scheme.

The expenses included ₹4.55 crores for the stage and infrastructure, ₹4.46 crores for the transportation of beneficiaries, and another ₹4.37 crores for "other works."

The State Government had given clearance to the Public Works Department (PWD) to take up these works. And, the works were given exemption under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 1999. The PM has visited seven times since January this year to attend government programmes in the state.

'Cover up lotus-shaped Shivamogga airport terminal'

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

Congress office-bearers have appealed to the Election Commission to cover the Shivamogga Airport terminal, designed to resemble the lotus, the election symbol of the BJP, till the elections are over. KPCC secretary K. Devendrappa and others submitted a memorandum, addressed to the Election Commission and the the Deputy Commissioner Dr. R. Selvamani in Shivamogga.

They alleged that the airport structure had been designed to resemble a lotus. Even when the design was made, many organisations had opposed it on the grounds that it would represent a party symbol. However, the BJP went ahead as planned and spent a huge amount of money to build the airport according to a design of their choice.

An aerial view of the Shivamogga Airport that was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 27, 2023. ANI

One more FIR against Puneeth Kerehalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

He had assaulted a cattle transporter and tortured him with a stun gun on March 20, say police

The Electronics City police have registered a case against cow vigilante Puneeth Kerehalli for allegedly assaulting a cattle transporter and torturing him with a stun gun on March 20. A video of the incident had gone viral when Kerehalli was accused of murdering cattle trader Idrees Pasha at Sathanur, near Kanakapura, on March 31.

The complainant, Aleemulla Baig from Periyapatna, was held on the charge of illegal cattle transport, under The Karnataka Prevention of Cow Slaughter and Cattle Preservation Act, 2020, and sent to jail, after he was intercepted by Kerehalli and his associates and handed over to the police. He recently came out on bail and came forward to lodge a complaint against Kerehalli for assault and torture after seeing that he had been arrested for allegedly murdering another cattle transporter.

In his plaint, Mr. Baig said he was assigned the task of transporting cattle to Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu, and as he was travelling with the cattle on Hosur Road, his vehicle was intercepted by Kerehalli and his associates, identified as Santosh, Chethan, and Deepak. "As they beat up the driver, Rafiq, they came behind where I was travelling with the cattle. They beat me up and used a stun gun to administer electric shocks and hurled abuses at me for transporting cattle," he said in his plaint.

Even as Mr. Baig writhed in pain and screamed for help, the torture allegedly did not end. Kerehalli continued to administer electric shocks on Mr. Baig's legs, arms, and back, even as others beat him up and this went on for nearly an hour. Kerehalli and his associates shouted the "police won't but we will give you treatment", Mr. Baig said in his complaint.

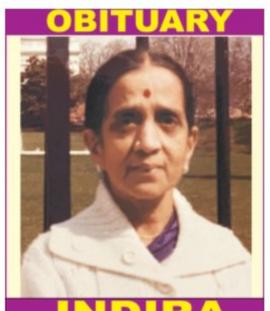
After nearly an hour, Kerehalli took out his mobile phone and did a live video of the incident, Mr. Baig said. The video that had gone viral recently showed Kerehalli administering electric shocks. However, while the police arrested Mr. Baig for the alleged illegal transport of cattle, they did not initiate any action against Kerahalli despite a video being posted on his social media handles. Mr. Baig said he did not talk of the assault and torture as Kerehalli had threatened him with dire consequences.

The Electronics City police have now registered a case against Kerehalli and his associates for assault, wrongful restraint, and criminal intimidation, among other offences. They are waiting to get the custody of the accused, as they are presently in the custody of the Sathanur police in connection with the murder case.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY



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Sudeep's campaign for BJP: No bar on commercial screenings, says EC

'We can only ban the screening of films featuring actors who are contesting polls or campaigning on Doordarshan, which is run by public funds'

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Following a demand seeking a ban on the display and screening of advertisements and movies featuring Kannada actor Sudeep, who is the BJP's star campaigner now, the Election Commission (EC) has made it clear that there can be no bar on commercial screenings.

"We can only ban the screening of films featuring actors who are contesting polls or campaigning on Doordarshan, which is run by public funds," Venkatesh Kumar R., Additional Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), told *The Hindu* on Saturday.

"The Election Commission of India (EC) had, in 2014, written to Prasar Bharati, Doordarshan, and Chief Electoral Officers of all States that telecast of films and commercial advertisements involving film actors who are contesting elections will not be restrained on TV channels or cinema theatres. However, telecast of such feature films (other than commercial advertisements) will

Sudeep

not be allowed on Doordarshan during the period of the enforcement of the model code of conduct, considering that Doordarshan is run on public funds," the official said.

Petitions to EC

After Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced on Wednesday that Mr. Sudeep would campaign for him and the BJP, the EC has received several petitions seeking a ban on the screening and telecast of movies, shows, and commercials featuring the actor till the elections are over.

"We have received petitions from the All-India Lawyers Union (Karnataka unit), from advocate and general secretary of the JD (S) legal wing Pradeep Kumar and another independent advocate. All of them have said that advertisements, posters, and promotional events featuring the actor must not be shown on television and other media until the conclusion of the Karnataka polls. Also, they have asked that posters of the star must be removed from public places. We have translated the petitions and sent them to the EC. The 2014 norm will hold good unless the EC takes a different view," he said.

Responding to the EC's stand, JD(S) national spokesperson Tanveer Ahmed said no person with affiliation to a particular party should be shown on the big screen or any audio-visual medium. "There is a difference between a star campaigner and a campaigner who is a star. In this case, Mr. Sudeep is a campaigner who is a star. He has officially made it clear that he is inclined towards a particular political ideology. Although he has not joined the party, he is a part of the party now," Mr. Ahmed said, adding that there have been instances in the past when screening of some Bollywood actors, who had a political background, had been banned during elections.

The Additional CEO said a star can campaign only for the party and all expenses incurred towards them would be linked to the party's account. "If the star campaigns for an individual candidate, half of the electioneering expenses will be deducted from the candidates' account. If he/she campaigns for more than one candidate, then 50% of the expenses will be divided between the candidates," the official said. Three accounting teams of expenditure observers would scrutinise the expenditure, he added.

In the 2018 Assembly elections, political parties that brought star campaigners to the State spent a substantial sum on their travel. According to an analysis by the Association for Democratic Reforms and National Election Watch, nearly 93% of the total travel expenditure reported by parties was spent on the star campaigners.

Congress hopes to rope in Ramya

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee is hoping to rope in Kannada actor Divya Spandana, popular by her screen name Ramya, as its star campaigner.

Sources in the Congress said the actor is likely to campaign along with other Kannada actors – Bhavana, Jaimala, and Sadhu Kokila – across the State.

Political parties are yet to finalise their list of star campaigners in Karnataka. The list of such campaigners should be submitted to the Elelction Commission (EC) within seven days of the notification of the polls on April 13.

BJP's list

A BJP spokesperson said the party's list of star campaigners is ready and has been sent to the high command for approval. The EC had in October 2020 reduced the number of star campaigners for recognised national and State parties from 40 to 30 and unrecognised registered parties from 20 each to 15, in order to reduce large crowds during the pandemic.

Ramya

However, this was restored to the pre-COVID numbers in February 2022 during the Assembly elections in Manipur and Uttar Pradesh.

INBRIEF

Woman loses ₹7.1 lakh to cyber fraudster

The Bengaluru northeast division cybercrime police are on the lookout for a person who cheated a 33-year-old woman promising job and made away with ₹7.1 lakh.

Based on the complaint from the victim, Rajani, the police are trying to track down the accused, who, according to the police, is suspected to have cheated many people using a similar *modus operendi*.

In her complaint, the victim said she had received a message on WhatsApp offering a part-time job and also huge returns for investments.

Curious about the part-time job offer, she contacted the accused who asked her to join a Telegram group. Soon, the accused started giving her tasks to complete and lured her to invest money, offering huge returns. As soon as the victim transferred the money, the accused turned incommunicado.

The police are now trying to track him down through the mobile number and the bank account details. Many times, the accused use SIM cards bought using fake credentials and even borrow bank accounts from gullible people on rent, making it hard to track them down, the police said.

Applications invited

Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bengaluru, has invited applications for Postgraduate Diploma in Facility Management.

Graduates in hotel management, business management, engineering, and science streams are eligible to apply. Candidates exhibiting an outstanding academic record with leadership potential will be selected for the scholarship by Schevaran Cleanfix Foundation, according to a press release. For details, visit https://hospitality.msruas.ac.in/programmes/postgraduate-diploma-in-facility-management.

'Silent' Sunil made to sign security bond

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police warn him to stay away from anti-social activities during Assembly elections

Gangster 'Silent' Sunil, who made headlines by sharing the stage with senior BJP leaders and who is said to be preparing himself to contest the Assembly election from the Chamarajpet constituency, was summoned by the Amruthahalli police and made to execute a bond that he will stay away from all criminal activities during the elections.

The action taken under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code allows the police to take a security bond from habitual offenders, a senior police officer said. Since he is a resident of Amruthahalli, Sunil was summoned by the police and made to execute a bond for ₹15 lakh. He was warned to stay away from anti-social activities.

"Generally, this bond is limited to the jurisdiction of the station where it is executed, but it is of an open nature and any violations in any part of the city and even outside amounts to violation and legal action can be taken against him," the officer said.

In November last year, Sunil made headlines after he was spotted with BJP leaders at a political programme at Chamarajpet. After the issue heated up, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai clarified that he would not be included in the party.

Drivers fined for carrying political ads on autos

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Getting political advertisements on their autorickshaws has now turned costly for auto drivers in the city. Transport Department officials have started pulling down the advertisements and penalising the auto drivers as it is a violation of the model code of conduct, according to the Election Commission of India.

The traffic police have been roped in for the special drive. Officials, acting on the orders of the EC are not only tearing down political advertisements on autorickshaws but also penalising drivers, drawing their ire. Neither did political parties who roped in them for the display of advertisements nor the officials informed them of this earlier, auto drivers rue.

Sharavana Kumar, an auto driver from Adugodi, complained that he and his friends had to face such action by the police recently. "Why didn't the police tell us about this law before the model code of conduct was enforced? Many local leaders gave us ₹500-₹1,000 for carrying an advertisement on the auto. Now we had to pay a fine of up to ₹5,000 for the same. Political parties had not informed us that the advertisements should be removed once the model code of conduct came into effect. There is no mistake of auto drivers in this," he said. However, a senior official claimed the fact that commercial vehicles cannot sport political advertisements once the model code of conduct came into effect was well known and drivers were informed of this.

Karnataka Votes 2023

Over 500 fined

A senior traffic police official said they had penalised more than 500 autorickshaw drivers over the last three days. "A majority of the advertisements of political leaders and parties have been removed. A special drive was carried out for three to four days to remove such advertisements. On those who disobeyed orders, a penalty of ₹500 to ₹1,000 was imposed. However, in certain cases, if permit rules are found violated there are provisions to impose a higher penalty," Transport Commissioner S.N. Siddaramappa said. In several cases, the penalty has gone up to ₹5,000, said auto drivers.

Amid this, most of the autorickshaw drivers have voluntarily removed the political advertisements fearing a penalty. "During the previous Assembly polls, I had to pay a fine after getting a political advertisement on my auto. I have learnt lessons and this year I removed the poster the day the elections were announced," said Peer Pasha, a auto driver from Jayanagar.

Residents in a Ballari area axe eight trees in public places

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

At a time when people in urban areas are showing interest in environment conservation and maintaining cleanliness and planting trees in their localities, some residents in Ballari displayed the opposite behaviour on Saturday.

A few residents of Ramayya Colony cut down eight trees, each one around 10 years old, in the local garden and on the roadside, allegedly because they felt the trees generate waste (fallen leaves) and "cause mosquito breeding".

They did it on their own and did not inform the Ballari City Municipal Corporation or the Forest Department.

When a few other residents from the same colony objected to it, the tree-cutters snatched their mobile phones and allegedly assaulted them.

"These trees were standing in public places and they were about 10 years old. The trees survived the hot summer and grew because of our care. Now, some, on the pretext that the trees cause mosquito breeding, have cut them down. The real purpose behind the act is timber business," P.A. Shivasagar, a resident of the same locality, who was also involved in environment conservation activities, told *The Hindu*.

Sandip Suryavanshi, Deputy Conservator of Forests, said that he had sent his officials to the spot and would take action against the offenders.

IN THE COURT OF THE LXXXIII ADDL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE
Com.O.S.No.188/2023

Plaintiff: M/s Arunodaya Service Station Rep. by SP Holder Syed Tabraiz Pasha, Manager. **-V/s-**
Defendant: M.R. Narasimha Murthy, Prop. SAM Tourist. No.24, Ananth Arcade, A.V. Road, Kalasipalyam, Bangalore-560002

Summons through Paper publication.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has filed the aforesaid case of Money Suit against you to pay a sum of **Rs.35,89,848/-.**

Take notice that You, the Defendant named above is hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble Commercial court **(CCH-84) at 11 AM** in person or by a pleader duly instructed on **24.05.2023** to show cause the above case filed against you for your appearance. Failing which the above suit will be heard and disposed of in your absence placing you ex-parte in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 5th day of April 2023 at Bangalore.

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Sheristedar
City Civil Court, Bangaluru.

Advocate for plaintiff
S.I.A. Khureshi.
No.5, 11th B CROSS, Thimmaiah Garden, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore-32.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client has entered into an Agreement, to purchase the Schedule-B- Property from Sri.Velu.B.Pethi, S/o.Late.Sri.T.R.Balasubramani, Aged about 53 years, Residing at No.108/A, 10 th Main, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru-560080. Any person/s having any manner of claims/ objections for the proposed purchase may lodge their claims/ objections with the undersigned, with documentary evidence within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication. Any claims/ objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claims/ objections.

SCHEDULE –A-PROPERTY: (Entire Property)

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing CITB Site No.305, Khatha No.305/6, 16 th Cross, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore-560 080, measuring East to West 90 Feet and North to South 60 Feet, in all measuring 5400 Sq.ft, with Ground, First and Part of Second Floor and bounded on the: East by : 16 th Cross, West by : Private Property, North by : House No.306, South by : House No.304.

SCHEDULE –B-PROPERTY:
(Property proposed to be conveyed)

All that piece and parcel of one third (1/3 rd) undivided interest i.e., 1800 Square, Feet of land out of the total land area of 5400 Sq.ft and the entire ground Floor, excluding the garage on the Southern side with a built up area of about 28 squares in Schedule-A-Property;

Site Area	1800 Sq.ft undivided interest in
Plinth Area	About 2600 Sq.ft
Age of the building	10 years (as on May 2007)
Roofing	R.C.C
Walls	Columns & Brick
Flooring	Mosaic
Wood Work	Teak Wood
Amenities	Electricity, Water, Sump and overhead tank, pumps-2 Nos. and Two Electric motors

Y.S.H. Reddy, Advocate, Anil Associates
No.206, 2 nd Floor, Esteem Plaza, Upper Palace Orchards, Sadhashivanagar, Bangalore- 560 080. Mobile: 98863 78570.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, APR. 09	
RISE 06:11	SET 18:32
RISE 21:29	SET 08:16
MONDAY, APR. 10	
RISE 06:10	SET 18:32
RISE 22:28	SET 09:06
TUESDAY, APR. 11	
RISE 06:10	SET 18:32
RISE 23:31	SET 10:02

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	26
Mysuru	35	21
Bengaluru	33	22

Bengaluru Today
34ºC The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
35ºC A dry weather to continue. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Summer camp for students at Bannerghatta park

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) is organising a three-day summer camp for students aged between 10 and 18. The BBP in a release said that students will be exposed to various aspects of zoo management, animal behaviour, careers in zoos as well as an insight into wildlife conservation.

The fee is ₹1,000, including entry to zoo, safari, butterfly park, and lunch and snacks.

The camp will be conducted in two batches – from April 12 to 14 and from April 19 to 21. It will be held between 9.30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on BBP premises. For details, visit https://bannerghattabiologicalpark.org/

Two Bangladeshi nationals arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

They had travelled to Singapore with valid Indian visa

The Immigration officials at Singapore Changi Airport on Friday caught two Bangladeshi nationals travelling to Singapore with valid Indian visa.

The immigration officials caught the duo and deported them back to the Kempegowda International Airport before alerting their counterparts here.

Through an agent

The officials at the KIA detained the duo, identified as Liyakath Ali and Rizaul Sheikh, as soon as the flight landed in Bengaluru on Friday. Initial probe revealed that the duo had come to India through the porous border and stayed in multiple metro cities before getting the Indian passport through illegal means through an agent.

The accused got valid ID cards through fake credentials with the help of an agent before applying for the passport.

The police have booked them under the Foreigners Act and also under various sections of the Passport Act and taken them into custody for further investigation.

Student drowns in Koosalli Falls

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

A 20-year-old student from Mangaluru drowned in Koosalli Falls in Yedthare village under Byndoor police limits on Friday.

Police gave the name of the student as Chiranth Shetty, son of Kumaraswamy, an Assistant Sub-Inspector of police in Koppa.

The victim was studying B.Com in a Mangaluru-based college and used to stay at a paying guest accommodation.

Chiranth's body was fished out on Saturday.

Byndoor police have registered a case of unnatural death.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Miss. Sharadha Ramachander, D/o. Sri. P V. Ramachander has intending to purchase of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owner M/s. Esteem Splendor, Represented by its partner Sri. Naraindas Bodaram having office at No. 32,33 & 34, SNS Chambers No. 239, Sankey Road, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore- 560 080.

If any persons, banks, financial intuitions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential Apartment bearing Flat No. A-7, measuring 1114 Sq. Ft. of SBA in the Ground Floor of the apartment Building "ESTEEM SPLENDOR-I" constructed in the converted land bearing Sy. Nos. 66/1, 66/2, 66/3 & 66/4, situated at Adugodi Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on: East by : Hosur Road, West by : Portion of Sy. No. 66/1 & 66/2, North by : Portion of Sy. No. 66/1 & 66/2 belonging to Sarvodaya Seva Sangha, South by: Remaining Portion of Schedule "A" Property.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates,
 # 96, 1 Floor, 1 Main, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-560068
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
BANGALORE, DATE : 08-04-2023

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INBRIEF

Rahul's public meeting in Kolar postponed to April 16

The much-awaited public meeting of former AICC chief Rahul Gandhi in Kolar, at the same venue where he delivered a controversial speech in 2019 based on which he was disqualified as an MP, has been again postponed to April 16. The rally was first scheduled on April 5, which was then postponed to April 9. Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who has been nominated from Varuna, said he is open to contesting from the second seat in Kolar, while the Congress seems worried this might not send the right message.

Sudham Das is co-chairman of KPCC campaign committee

Ahead of the Assembly polls, the Congress on Saturday appointed H.P. Sudham Das as co-chairman of the campaign committee of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge approved the proposal for the appointment, a note said.

Ready to work under Kharge if he becomes CM: DKS

As competitions among leaders on who are chief ministerial candidates for the Assembly elections grows more intense, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday said that he was ready to work under Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge if he wishes to be the Chief Minister of Karnataka. Speaking to reporters, he said he is ready to step down from the race if Mr. Kharge wishes to become the Chief Minister. "Mr. Kharge is an asset to our State and the country. I am ready to accept the party's decision. Mr. Kharge has made many sacrifices for the party. I will happily work with him if he becomes the Chief Minister," Mr. Shivakumar said. Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said earlier that he and Mr. Shivakumar are aspirants, among others, for the post and there was nothing wrong in it.

First list: BJP Parliamentary Board meeting postponed

It was deferred owing to the non-availability of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP Parliamentary Board meeting that was scheduled to be held on Saturday evening, to decide on the party's first list of candidates for the upcoming Assembly elections, was postponed due to the non-availability of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi.

Mr. Modi was touring Telangana and Tamil Nadu and landed in Mysuru on Saturday night. The board's meeting will likely happen on Sunday night after he returns to Delhi or on Monday, sources in the party said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being received by Union Ministers Bhupender Yadav and Ashwini Choubey upon his arrival in Mysuru on Saturday night. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Marathon meetings

In the meanwhile, Central leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, party president J.P. Nadda and BJP general secretary (Organisation) B.L. Santhosh, were huddled with State leaders in Delhi at Mr. Nadda's residence over selection of candidates.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, State party chief Nalin Kumar Kateel, former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi, Dharmendra Pradhan, and Mansukh Mandaviya, and in-charge of party affairs in State Arun Singh were part of the deliberations.

"The Prime Minister will not go into the nitty-gritties of candidate selection. It is at these meetings that most of the list will be finalised and presented for approval before the Parliamentary Board," a senior BJP leader said.

Sources said that the meetings were considering the list of three candidates suggested by party workers in the poll held recently, the shortlist and recommendation by the State core committee, and independent surveys that the party high command conducted in all the 224 constituencies, to select candidates.

While there has been speculation that many sitting MLAs may lose ticket, sources in the party said it was unlikely.

Fingers crossed

Several BJP ticket aspirants are camping in Delhi trying to lobby for themselves. However, most of them have been in the dark as the leaders had been holed up in marathon meetings at Mr. Nadda's residence. Keeping their fingers crossed, most of them are waiting for the Parliamentary Board meeting to be held.

The party is targeting to announce the candidates for at least 150 constituencies in its first list, which will likely be announced on Monday night, party sources said.

JD(S) candidate for Hassan: Rift widens in Deve Gowda's family

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

H.D. Revanna is said to have conveyed a message to the party leadership that he could go against the party's diktat if his wish is not fulfilled

The differences over the selection of a JD(S) candidate for the Hassan seat are said to have widened within former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's family.

Former Minister H.D. Revanna, who has been in favour of fielding his wife Bhavani Revanna for Hassan, is said to have conveyed a message to the party leadership that he could go against the party's diktat if his wish was not fulfilled.

Karnataka Votes 2023

Mr. Revanna held a meeting with his supporters in Hassan on Friday. During the interaction, many workers suggested he take a bold step and field Ms. Bhavani as an Independent in Hassan if the party chose to field Mr. Swaroop. Mr. Revanna said to have conveyed the same to the party leadership and also threatened that he would not campaign for any of the constituencies in the district.

On the other hand, former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy reiterated that he is firm in his stand and will field an ordinary worker in Hassan. Reacting to a supporter's open appeal in a party programme in Bengaluru on Saturday, to field Mr. Swaroop in Hassan, Mr. Kumaraswamy made it clear that he would go by the wish of his party workers. "You all know who will be the candidate in Hassan. It had been decided long back. However, it is not yet announced," he said.

Later, speaking to pressmen, Mr. Kumaraswamy said he would not heed tactics of blackmail. "I go by the decisions of my workers. All these days, I have tried to resolve the differences within the family with patience. I am not going to heed any attempts at blackmail by posing threats of contesting independently. Someone could emotionally blackmail Mr. Deve Gowda, but not me. I will not heed such tricks," he said.

Ramesh Jarkiholi a double-edged sword for BJP

Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
BELAGAVI

Since the election season began, Mr. Jarkiholi has been publicly demanding that the BJP leave the choice of candidates to him, at least in Belagavi

BJP leader Ramesh Jarkiholi, since his first attempt at the hustings in 1985, then as a Congressman, till recently as Minister with the BJP, has run the party organisations in his turf of Gokak just like his other business ventures - with very little outside control.

But now, he seems to be finding the going tough, with his demands for ticket for his loyalists appearing go unheeded. The saffron party too seems to be finding his ways tough to handle.

Since the election season began, Mr. Ramesh has been publicly demanding that the BJP leave the choice of candidates to him, at least in Belagavi. "If I am allowed to distribute 16 of the 18 ticket in the district, I will get at least 14 of them elected," he declared at his followers' rally in Belagavi rural. He reiterated this at the district core committee meeting, party sources say.

Ramesh Jarkiholi

The party, however, asked him to stop the followers' rallies, after he held three of them.

Not waiting for the party to act on his demand, Mr. Ramesh began work on the ground. He campaigned for his followers like Mahesh Kumathalli in Athani, Nagesh Munnolkar in Belagavi rural, and Raosaheb Patil in Nippani.

Open rebellion

This angered other BJP leaders who accused him of trying to interfere in their constituency. Chikkodi MP Annasaheb Jolle, whose wife Shashikala Jolle was elected from Nippani, accused him of trying to interfere in the constituencies of their influence.

The differences were accentuated when the Jarkiholi clan allegedly ganged up to ensure victory of Lakhan Jarkiholi (one of the brothers) against BJP nominee Mahantesh Kavatagimath. Apart from Mr. Kavatagimath, Rajya Sabha member and BJP Raitha Morcha leader Iranna Kadadi, Anna Saheb Jolle, and Laxman Savadi have openly criticised Mr. Jarkiholi.

Savadi's accusations

The loudest opposition has come from Mr. Savadi, who has accused the Jarkiholi brothers of hatching a conspiracy against him. Mr. Savadi gave up his claim to the Athani seat after Mr. Kumathalli defected to the BJP. But now, he has come back to reclaim it.

He has held several meetings with leaders of various communities, including Muslim organisations, seeking their opinion about whether he should contest the polls.

The BJP is said to be trying to groom Mr. Ramesh as an alternative to Valmiki Nayaka leader and Minister B. Sriramulu, and is therefore, not willing to act tough against him. However, he has proved to be a double-edged sword as the party is not comfortable with the ways of Mr. Ramesh.

At a recent meeting, party president J.P. Nadda and BJP organising secretary M. Rajesh instructed him not to criticise any BJP leader in public and not to make personal attacks against rivals like Congress leader Lakshmi Hebbalkar. But the advise was soon forgotten as Mr. Ramesh threatened to withdraw from the race if his followers were not given ticket. He also organised a mass lunch in Ms. Hebbalkar's constituency.

Silverware seized

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Officials on poll duty seized silverware, worth about ₹40 lakh, from the car of a company founded by Hindi film producer Boney Kapoor in Davangere on Friday.

Officers stopped the car on the Pune-Bengaluru national highway at the Davangere check-post and found around 66 kg of silver materials in the boot. The car is owned by Mumbai-based Bayview Projects Pvt. Ltd, founded by Mr. Kapoor, said officers.

The model code of conduct officials said that the materials included plates, glass, mugs, and spoons. But the persons in the car, Hari Singh and Sultan Khan, did not have proper documents required as per the ECI rules. A case has been registered.

Muslim community disappointed with Congress for giving ticket to only 10

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Community leaders held a closed-door meeting with JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy, party sources said

The Muslim community leaders are learnt to be disappointed that only 10 candidates from the community have been given ticket by the Congress in the list of 166 names announced so far. They had met the party high command in Delhi, who had apparently responded positively to their demand for more ticket.

However, leaders from the Muslim community felt they had been "ignored" by the Karnataka leadership though the State has about 90 lakh voters and represent 15% of the State. The party has given ticket in Bijapur city, Kalaburagi North, Gangavati, Tumakuru city, Shivajinagar, Shantinagar, Chamarajpet, Ramanagara, Mangaluru, and Narasimharaja.

Other castes

Other communities such as Veerashaiva-Lingayats (17%) have been given 41 seats, Vokkaligas (11%) have been given 39 seats, SCs (17%) have been given 26 seats, STs (7%) have been given 12, OBCs have been given 30 seats, Brahmains have been given five seats, Vysya one seat, Jain one seat, and Christian one seat.

The Muslim community leaders had sought ticket in places where Muslims are the deciding factor, such as Chickpet, Raichur, Hangal, and Shiggaon, among 10 other constituencies.

Meanwhile, a group of community leaders, scholars (Ulema) and Muthavallis (masjid/dargah leaders) held a closed-door meeting with JD(S) leader H.D Kumaraswamy, a source from the party said.

'Sense of insecurity'

"The last few years of BJP rule in Karnataka has created a sense of insecurity within the community. And we wanted to be with the Congress. But unfortunately, the Congress is not on the same page as us and they think Muslims will vote without addressing the issues raised by us. We have given various representations, but the State leadership of the Congress is not keen on addressing the issues," a Ulema leader said, on condition of anonymity, adding that ticket distribution showed the "party's attitude." This, he said, had pushed them to consider alternatives like the JD(S).

At least in 57 constituencies, Muslims are seen as the deciding votes in Karnataka, claimed the scholar, adding that there are also SC and ST reserved constituencies where Muslims are again deciding votes.

In 2018

In the 2018 Assembly elections, the Congress fielded 17 candidates and of them seven candidates successfully made it to the Assembly.

The JD(S) too fielded 17 candidates, but drew a blank. The BJP, relying on Hindu vote bank, had not fielded a single Muslim candidate.

With weddings under the EC scanner, organisers face the heat

Poll officials have mounted an eagle-eyed vigil on the bulk supply of materials for weddings and other functions as well as on their transportation

Laiqh A. Khan
MYSURU

When Lakshmikanth H.C., a resident of Mysuru, fixed his daughter's wedding for April 23 and 24 at a convention hall in the city more than a month ago, little did he foresee the hassles of making arrangements for the event in the midst of the elections.

With the model code of conduct coming into force for the Legislative Assembly elections in Karnataka from March 29, elections officials have mounted an eagle-eyed vigil on the bulk supply of materials for weddings and other functions as well as their transportation by putting up check-posts and deputing flying squads with a view to curbing electoral malpractices.

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH RAVIKUMAR

Mr. Lakshmikanth found suppliers of bulk items like ice cream were demanding necessary clearances from the election officials. The ice-cream supplier said he cannot accept bulk order without necessary permission from the authorities. "We have been orally instructed by the election officials against delivering bulk items without necessary approvals from the police and election officials," said Vijaykumar, a representative from the ice cream manufacturer in Yadavgiri in Mysuru.

Mr. Lakshmikanth is worried that the suppliers of other items for the wedding like ration and steel boxes to given as gifts to women guests may also demand such permission from the election officials. His is not an isolated cases as most choultries have reported good booking during April and May, considered to be a wedding season.

Why the vigil?

Additional Chief Electoral Officer Venkatesh Kumar said the organisers only need to intimate the respective Returning Officers so that field officers in the jurisdiction can keep a watch. In the past, mass feeding events have been misused for inducements and violation of model code of conduct. "It is enough if the organisers inform the jurisdictional election officials, who have to ensure that it is private gathering and there is no violation of model code of conduct", he said.

Election officer for Chamundeshwari Assembly constituency in Mysuru Kamala Bai B. said the organisers of weddings and other ceremonies should provide the details like wedding invitation card and receipt for booking the choultry based on which the election authorities will issue an acknowledgement. "The acknowledgement is necessary for the goods to pass through check-posts and to be allowed by the flying squads," she said.

Time factor

However, Mr. Lakshmikanth said that time is of essence. He had submitted details of the wedding of his daughter to the election officials. The officials said they would issue the acknowledgement only after securing clearances from the jurisdiction police and civic authorities.

"Instead of distributing invitations and making the arrangements, I am running from pillar to post obtaining approvals from the jurisdictional police station and Mysuru City Corporation's zonal office," he said.

Inviting politicians

Also, the organisers of weddings and other social gatherings have been cautioned about the implications of inviting politicians or candidates contesting elections. If the wedding is used by the politicians for electoral purposes, the expenses incurred on the event will be accounted as the candidate's election expenditure.

INBRIEF

A train to Kashmir Valley under Bharat Gaurav scheme

The Indian Railways, in association with the South Star Rail, a Coimbatore-based company, will operate a tourist train to Kashmir Valley under the Bharat Gaurav scheme. "The package will begin on May 11. The train originates from Coimbatore. Tourists can board it at Erode, Salem, Dharmapuri, Hosur, Yelahanka, Perambur, Vijayawada and Warangal," according to Vignesh, product director of the Travel Times India Limited that would coordinate the 12-day tour package. The fare would be ₹41,950 (third A/C); ₹54,780 (second A/C), and ₹64,990 (first A/C). "Tickets can be booked by dialling 7876101010 or through www.railtourism.com," Mr. Vignesh said. Tourists would be taken to Srinagar, Moghul Gardens, Dal Lake, Sonmarg, Amritsar, Gulmarg, Taj Mahal, Indo-Pakistan border, and other places.

When Tamil Nadu grows, India grows, says PM Modi

Inaugurating infrastructure projects worth more than ₹5,200 crore in Chennai, the Prime Minister says the schemes will give a big boost to development, which will raise income levels in the State

Aravind Kumar B.
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu is one of India's growth engines, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Saturday, as he inaugurated infrastructure projects worth more than ₹5,200 crore. "When Tamil Nadu grows, India grows," he said.

Staying away from political rhetoric, Mr. Modi said that the projects would give a big boost to growth, which would raise income levels. Elaborating on the new infrastructure thrust, he claimed that the work culture and vision have changed since 2014.

"Earlier, it meant delay. Now it is deliver. The journey from delay to deliver happened due to work culture, as we feel accountable for every rupee of tax paid," he said. The Indian revolution in infrastructure was driven by speed and scale, he said, adding that this was the reason record amounts were allocated to infrastructure development in this year's Union Budget. "We do not see infrastructure as concrete and cement but we see it with a human face."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagging off the Vande Bharat Express in Chennai on Saturday in the presence of Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and T.N. Chief Minister M.K.Stalin. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

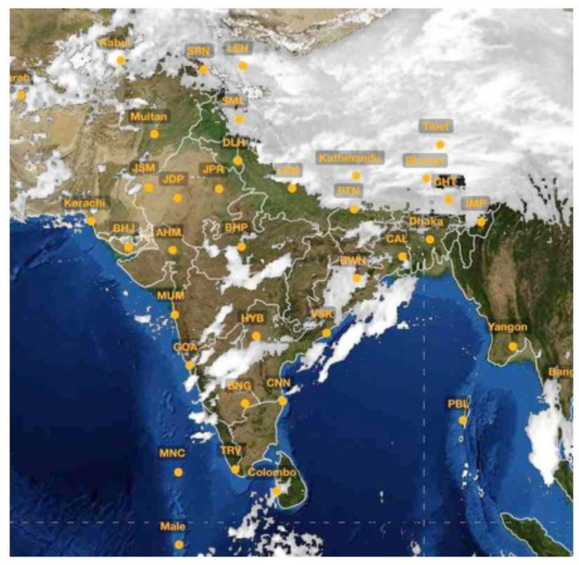
Earlier in the day, he inaugurated the Chennai airport's new international terminal. On his arrival, he was welcomed at the airport by Governor R.N. Ravi, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, his Cabinet colleagues and MPs.

The Prime Minister then flagged off the Vande Bharat train to Coimbatore from Chennai Central Railway Station.

On Sunday, he will be visiting Theppakadu elephant camp and meeting Bomman and Bellie who featured in the Oscar-winning documentary *The Elephant Whisperers*.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/ gusty wind likely at isolated places over Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Marathwada, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.9	20.2	Kozhikode	—	35.4	27.0
Ahmedabad	—	39.1	23.6	Kurnool	—	39.8	26.3
Aizawl	—	26.0	12.8	Lucknow	—	35.4	18.9
Allahabad	—	37.4	20.9	Madurai	—	36.2	24.6
Bengaluru	—	33.6	21.5	Mangaluru	—	34.2	23.8
Bhopal	1	—	21.4	Mumbai	—	36.5	26.0
Bhubaneswar	—	37.5	25.0	Mysuru	—	35.5	24.2
Chandigarh	—	32.9	16.5	New Delhi	—	34.1	14.1
Chennai	—	34.3	25.4	Patna	—	38.1	21.8
Coimbatore	—	34.9	24.0	Port Blair	—	32.6	25.1
Dehradun	—	32.9	14.8	Puducherry	—	34.4	23.2
Gangtok	—	20.9	12.9	Pune	—	34.8	22.9
Goa	—	36.0	25.0	Raipur	—	36.2	20.8
Guwahati	—	34.2	19.4	Ranchi	—	35.0	21.2
Hubballi	—	36.0	22.0	Shillong	—	24.6	12.4
Hyderabad	—	34.3	23.3	Shimla	—	22.0	10.4
Imphal	—	31.5	15.3	Srinagar	—	23.7	4.7
Jaipur	—	33.8	20.7	Thiruvananthapuram	2	34.2	25.1
Kochi	—	32.6	26.6	Tiruchi	—	36.1	25.0
Kohima	—	25.4	14.2	Vijayawada	—	36.0	25.0
Kolkata	—	37.0	26.5	Visakhapatnam	—	33.6	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.32	103	.46	109	125	
Bengaluru	2	8	.13	104	87	
Chennai	3	70	111	42	39	
Delhi	.21	.56	.35	307	269	
Hyderabad	6	.32	.43	92	134	
Kolkata	.32	.29	.84	102	114	
Lucknow	.22	157	.29	154	121	
Mumbai	.11	.54	.88	137	203	
Pune	111	149	114	136	100	
Visakhapatnam	.18	.41	.43	58	95	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Munger, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 295 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 26

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Rajaji's great-grandson joins BJP; says he is not a dynast

New entrant: C.R. Kesavan, former Congress spokesperson, joins the BJP in the presence of Union Minister V.K. Singh at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday. R.V. MOORTHY

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

C.R. Kesavan's entry is seen as part of the party's push for traction in the southern States

C.R. Kesavan, former Congress spokesperson and great-grandson of India's last Governor-General C. Rajagopalachari, joined the BJP on Saturday, in the presence of Union Minister V.K. Singh, Rajya Sabha member Anil Baluni and Bihar MLC Sanjay Mayukh.

The move is seen as part of the BJP's push for traction in the southern States, where, apart from Karnataka, the party is yet to gain significant support. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Kesavan, who hails from Tamil Nadu, said while he was identified with his lineage, he was not "a *vanshawaadi* or *parivarvadi* (dynast)".

"My father was an engineer, my grandfather was a news editor with *The Hindu* in Chennai, and I myself was pursuing a professional life abroad. I came back to India and started from scratch," he said. He refused to speak on the reasons why he left the Congress. He said that he had always been "fascinated" by the characters of Karna (from the Mahabharata) and Vibhishana (from the Ramayana), who were both great characters with a strong sense of right and wrong, but while one chose the wrong side, the other, Vibhishana, chose "the path of dharma".

He said he was impressed with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's handling of the pandemic. "Saint Tiruvallur said that when faced with a crisis, you should confront it with calmness, something that I saw in Prime Minister. His handling of the situation was exemplary and left a mark," he said.

He also lauded Mr. Modi for "following Mahatma Gandhi's concept of policies for the last person in the queue".

He said as of now, he has neither asked for nor received any indication of a role within the party.

"We all want to contribute, and the BJP is a place where I think I can do this," he said.

It's taking 30 hours for darshan at Tirumala

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUMALA

The hill temple of Lord Venkateswara here continued to witness heavy pilgrim crowds for the second day on Saturday.

The waiting time for the devotees without any kind of darshan tokens touched around 30 hours. Official sources said that over 50,000 devotees had darshan of the deity till 5 p.m. It was expected that another 40,000 would have darshan by night.

Officials attributed the reason to a string of holidays during the weekend. The queue lines stretched out up to the 'Sila Thoranam' on the outer ring road after going around Narayanagiri gardens.

Saying it in style

Events galore: People taking part in the Vote Fest, organised by the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, in the view of the upcoming Assembly elections, on Church Street in Bengaluru on Saturday. The awareness event is aimed at creating a better understanding of the electoral process through activities such as street plays, flash mobs, bike rallies, and Yakshagana performances. K. MURALI KUMAR

Cardinal's remarks against judiciary draw criticism

The Hindu Bureau
KOTTAYAM

Cardinal Mar George Alencherry, Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, has come under sharp criticism by a section of the laity for his remarks over alleged judicial activism by some courts.

The Kerala Catholic Church Reformation Movement has launched a scathing attack on the Cardinal, accusing him of criticising the judicial system out of sheer frustration over being forced to appear before a court to get bail in connection with a property scam.

"As a person of high esteem and influence in civil society, Mar Alencherry regards himself above law and even made a declaration to this effect at the court. The statement that he delivered from the altar of a church on the occasion of Good Friday is misleading and intended to influence the public," the organisation said.

'An offence'

Holding that the statement, which did not cite any particular judgment, sought to cast a shadow over the judicial system as a whole, the organisation pointed out that the act amounted to an offence under the Religious Institutions (prevention of misuse) Act, 1988.

Against this backdrop, the organisation urged the authorities to initiate contempt of court proceedings against the Cardinal, while also reiterating its willingness to approach the court against Mar Alencherry.

Delivering his Good Friday message at Mount St. Thomas, headquarters of the Syro-Malabar Church, the Cardinal had remarked that some courts were passing 'unjust' orders, possibly for media appeasement or for public applause. This trend, in his opinion, could even be seen as an attempt at being popular through judicial activism.

To buttress his argument, the Cardinal had also used the biblical analogy of Pontius Pilate, who ordered the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The remarks assumed significance as the Cardinal has many criminal cases filed against him in connection with alleged irregularities in the sale of land belonging to the Ernakulam-Angamaly Archdiocese.

NIA likely to probe train arson case

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) may take over the Kozhikode train arson case as its inter-State implications involve connections to Shaheen Bagh in Delhi as well as the city of Noida in Uttar Pradesh.

Initially registered by the Kozhikode railway police, the case has now been transferred to the Crime Branch. On April 2, on the day of the incident, a preliminary probe was conducted by the NIA with several Central agencies and anti-terror squads from various States, including Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. Sources said the incident appeared to have been a calculated act of terror.

The possibility of sinister motives cannot be ruled out, they added.

Sources said the NIA had identified some striking similarities between the Kozhikode train arson and the blast in the Bhopal-Ujjain passenger train in 2017, which was carried out by seven IS-linked extremists.

The arson in Kozhikode was allegedly executed by a 24-year-old suspect, Shahrukh Saifi, who reportedly poured petrol on passengers of the Alappuzha-Kannur Express.

Nine red sanders smugglers nabbed in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
RAYACHOTI

A combing party of the Andhra Pradesh State red sanders anti-smuggling task force on Saturday nabbed nine smuggling operatives when they were reportedly about to enter the Seshachalam Hills at Mandapalle village on the Rajampeta-Nandalur road in Annamayya district.

According to SP A. Chakravarthy, the combing party seized axes from them. The operatives are residents of Pullampetae mandal in the district, aged between 30 and 45.

Chennai to host Street Child Cricket World Cup

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chennai has always welcomed cricket with open arms, and has played the perfect host to several national and international tournaments. Come September, Chennai will witness another cricket tournament, but one with a difference – the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023.

Organised by Street Child United in partnership with Shree Dayaa Foundation, the tournament will take place at Amir Mahal, the official residence of the Nawab of Arcot from September 20 to 30. This is the second edition of the Street Child Cricket World Cup, and the tournament is envisioned as a platform for street children to not just showcase their sporting talent, but to also advocate for their rights. While lots of cricketing action is in store through the T20-style tournament, the World Cup will see art workshops as well as other child-friendly sessions in which 168 street children from 15 countries will participate.

Team India South celebrates winning the inaugural Street Child Cricket World Cup, at Lords Cricket Ground in 2019. FILE PHOTO

"A tournament like this gives street children across the world an opportunity to represent their country, showcase their talents, and engage in discussions to learn about the concerns they all face. Protection is usually the first demand that these children have, followed by access to necessities including identity documents," said Paul Sunder Singh, director, Karunalaya, a Chennai-based NGO working with street children. Four children from Karunalaya were a part of Team India South which won the inaugural Street Child Cricket World Cup, hosted at Lord's Cricket Ground, London in 2019.

National mixed teams of boys and girls will represent their countries for the cricket tournament and this includes teams from Bangladesh, Brazil, Burundi, England, Hungary, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Sri Lanka, and Zimbabwe. Seven Indian teams representing different organisations from across the country will also participate.

John Wroe, co-founder and CEO of Street Child United, said that they were happy to partner with Latha Rajinikanth's Shree Dayaa Foundation for the event, and are also working with the support of Nawabzada Mohammed Asif, Dewan to the Prince of Arcot, Oliver Ballhatchet MBE, British Deputy High Commissioner in Chennai, and the NGO Save The Children-India which will be facilitating their advocacy work.

From Page One

NCERT's blue pencil on harsh realities

An entire subhead titled "The urban environment – a tale of two cities", has been chopped off. The section described conflict between the rich and the poor in the Ashok Vihar area of north Delhi. After a morning walker saw a poorly clad 18-year-old boy strolling in the park, he was beaten to death by a group of enraged house owners and two police constables. The boy was from a neighbouring colony of labourers in Wazirpur. The deleted section includes this line: "When a group of people from the *jhuggis* gathered to protest against this killing, the police opened fire and killed four more people."

The revised version of the chapter has simply merged two subheads into one, titled 'Sustainable Development', and provided a generic narrative devoid of any detailed stories or examples.

Key statistics replaced

Further in the same chapter, statistics on indoor air pollution-related deaths in India have been deleted, including this section: "But we often don't realise that indoor pollution from cooking fires is also a serious source. The World Health Organisation has estimated that almost 600,000 people died due to (cumulative) indoor pollution related causes in India in 1998, almost 500,000 of them in rural areas." This has been replaced with global figures in the new version.

None of these deletions have been declared by the NCERT in its published list of revisions. The only declared change is the deletion of an article published in *Outlook* on May 8, 2006 titled 'Meet the Parents', about the "vicious cycle" of "teen marriages, migrant labour and cane factories in crisis".

Earlier, students were required to read the report and discuss the constraints that poverty posed to the children of migrant labourers.

Trials can be transferred only in exceptional cases: SC

Declining the petition to transfer a case out of West Bengal, the top court said the power to transfer cases should be used sparingly and only when justice was apparently in grave peril

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has held in a judgment that criminal cases under trial should be transferred from one State to another only in "exceptional circumstances". Unnecessary shifting of cases would affect the morale of the State judiciary and prosecution agency.

A Bench led by Justice Surya Kant was recently dealing with the murder of a political worker, Kurban Sha, in Purba Medinipur, West Bengal.

Sha was shot dead by goons in 2019. The family of Sha had approached the top court to transfer the trial to Assam. They alleged that a fair trial was not possible in West Bengal.

The State government suddenly, in 2021, ordered the public prosecutor to withdraw the prosecution against the accused. The Calcutta High Court proactively stepped in and annulled the government notification. The trial court also refused to grant bail to the accused after the victim's family and witnesses complained of threats.

> This court has allowed transfers only in exceptional cases considering the fact that transfers may cast unnecessary aspersions on the judiciary and the prosecution agency

In his judgment for the top court Bench, Justice Kant commended the interventions of the judiciary, saying that "justice should not only be done, but should manifestly and undoubtedly be seen to be done". Declining the plea to transfer the case out of West Bengal, the court said the power to transfer cases under Section 406 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC) should be used sparingly and only when justice was apparently in grave peril.

"This court has allowed transfers only in exceptional cases considering the fact that transfers may cast unnecessary aspersions on the State Judiciary and the prosecution agency. Thus, over the years, this court has laid down certain guidelines and situations wherein such power can be justiciably invoked," Justice Kant observed.

The judgment summarised a catena of apex court verdicts giving the possible situations in which an ongoing trial could be transferred. These include when the State or prosecution is acting hand in glove with the accused; when there is material to show that the accused may influence the prosecution witnesses or cause physical harm to the complainant; when comparative inconvenience and hardships are likely to be caused to the accused; when there is a communally surcharged atmosphere indicating some proof of inability of holding fair and impartial trial because of the accusations made and the nature of the crime committed by the accused; existence of some material from which it can be inferred that some persons are so hostile that they are interfering or are likely to interfere either directly or indirectly with the course of justice.

The convenience of parties and witnesses as well as the language spoken by them could also act as a relevant factor when deciding a transfer petition, the court said. Besides the proactive exercises, the Bench said transferring the current case would present logistical issues. More than 90 witnesses, most of whom are Bengalis, are yet to be examined.

SC to hear petition on protecting copyright of live-streamed cases

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a petition seeking protection of the copyright of proceedings beamed live on the Web through YouTube. A 2018 judgment in the *Swapnil Tripathi case* had given the green signal for live-streaming of the top court's proceedings and safeguarding them from misuse.

According to the April 10 cause list, uploaded on the Supreme Court website, a Bench comprising Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices P.S. Narasimha and J.B. Pardiwala would hear the plea.

In an earlier hearing, the Centre had said it was working on a "self-contained, self-reliant ecosystem" to live-stream Supreme Court proceedings even as the top court responded to criticism about the lack of safeguards by petitioner, former RSS ideologue K.N. Govindacharya. CJI Chandrachud had observed that "it is always easy to criticise others and it is always easy to throw a stone at somebody". "You tell us, what are the modalities which can be followed to live-stream? Do you want live-streaming of court proceedings to be stopped?" a Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud had asked advocate Virag Gupta, appearing for the petitioner.

The court had asked what modalities could be followed for live-streaming at a time when the National Informatics Centre (NIC) was saying it did not have sufficient technical and infrastructure wherewithal to live-stream court proceedings without third-party applications. The lawyer had said a special agreement could be made with the YouTube platform for safeguarding the copyright over the court's live-streamed proceedings as held in a 2018 judgment.

Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, for the government, had said work was on to build self-reliance as early as possible. The Bench had said the top court itself was in the process of strengthening the live-streaming mechanism.

Oppn. hit by SC view on Central probe plea: PM

In a veiled criticism of the Telangana government, the Prime Minister urged the State government not to stall the Centre's development projects, but rather to cooperate in the interests of the State. This non-cooperation is not in the interests of Telangana, he said, cautioning the people to be wary of it.

Mr. Modi refrained from making any direct attack against the BRS government or against the Chief Minister and his family.

The Telangana Chief Minister skipped all of the PM's events, leaving Animal Husbandry Minister T. Srinivas Yadav to represent the State government at the Vande Bharat Express launch. During the last four visits of the PM too, the Chief Minister had not met him or participated in any of his programmes.

Communal clash in Chhattisgarh; 1 dead, three policemen hurt

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

A young man was killed and three police personnel were injured when a fight between two teens escalated into a clash between members of two communities in Bemetara district of Chhattisgarh on Saturday.

Following the violence, Biranpur – a village 75 km from Raipur – was gripped with communal tension. Eleven persons have been arrested for the violence.

According to the police, around 11 a.m., a 14-year-old boy was allegedly attacked by another juvenile from a different community with a sharp object.

"As the adults got involved, there was mobilisation of both the communities and a clash broke out between them. As people advanced from both sides and threw stones, police were informed. However, while trying to convince them, three policemen were also attacked. In the clash, one person, who had sustained serious injuries, was found lying in the cluster inhabited by members of a different community. He was taken to a hospital where he was declared brought dead," a police officer said.

The deceased has been identified as Bhuneshwar Sahu.

Murmu becomes third President to fly a sortie on a Sukhoi fighter jet

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

President and Supreme Commander of the armed forces Droupadi Murmu took a sortie on an Indian Air Force (IAF) Sukhoi-30MKI fighter aircraft at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam on Saturday. She is the third President and second woman President to undertake such a sortie.

The President flew for approximately 30 minutes covering the Brahmaputra and the Tezpur Valley with a view of the Himalayas before returning to the Air Force Station, a statement from the Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

President Droupadi Murmu takes a sortie on the IAF's fighter aircraft Sukhoi-30MKI at the Tezpur Air Force Station on Saturday. PTI

"It was an exhilarating experience for me to fly in the mighty Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter aircraft of the IAF. It is a matter of pride that India's defence capabilities have expanded immensely to cover all the frontiers of land, air and sea. I congratulate the IAF and the entire team of Air Force Station, Tezpur for organising this sortie," Ms. Murmu wrote in the visitor's book.

The SU-30MKI flew at a height of about two kilometres above sea level and at a speed of about 800 kmph and was flown by Group Captain Naveen Kumar, Commanding Officer of 106 Squadron.

IAF briefs Murmu

The President was also briefed on the operational capabilities of the aircraft and the Indian Air Force (IAF). She expressed satisfaction on the operational preparedness of the IAF, the statement added.

In March, Ms. Murmu visited *INS Vikrant* and interacted with officers and sailors on board the aircraft carrier commissioned last September.

16th Finance panel will be constituted in November

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The Union government is gearing up to constitute the Sixteenth Finance Commission in November this year to recommend the formula for sharing revenues between the Centre and the States for the five-year period beginning 2026-27, a top government official has confirmed to *The Hindu*.

The critical fiscal panel, which is also tasked with recommending the distribution ratio of revenues between States, along with other terms of reference that the Centre proposes, is to be formed every five years according to Article 280 of the Constitution. However, the Fifteenth Finance Commission, which was headed by N.K. Singh, had been given an extended mandate to make recommendations for six years, up till 2025-26.

"Since the last Commission was set up in November 2017, we are eyeing the same month this year to constitute the Sixteenth Commission. That should give the panel enough time to ready its report by around October 2025," the official said.

The government is bound to consider the Commission's suggestions and submit an action taken report that conveys its stance on those ideas, along with the first Union Budget of the five-year period. That will be the Budget of 2026-27, likely to be presented on February 2, 2026 as February 1 falls on a Sunday that year.

The last time the Constitutional body was given a six-year mandate was for the Ninth Finance Commission formed in June 1987. But the Tenth Finance Commission was still constituted in June 1992 within the five-year deadline specified by the Constitution.

The official who will be involved in the notification process of the Commission said that the Centre is yet to make up its mind on the terms of reference that may be prescribed for it.

The Fifteenth Finance Commission was handed some contentious tasks, such as determining whether a separate mechanism was warranted for funding defence and internal security spends. It was also asked to rely on Census 2011 data for its recommendations, which had caused concern among some States that had done better on health and population management vis-à-vis other peers.

"The terms of reference will take a while to work out. The world is in the midst of multiple challenges and new priorities may emerge by the time it is November," the official said.

Agra cow slaughter incident planned to incite riots in U.P., says Samajwadi Party

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

A day after the Uttar Pradesh Police said that some members of the All India Hindu Mahasabha slaughtered a cow in Agra to allegedly frame four Muslim men for the crime in the Etmaddulah police station area last month, the Samajwadi Party (SP) targeted the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for creating a hostile environment against the Muslim community in the State and helping the fringe Hindu fundamentalist elements to target innocent people.

"The real face of the BJP and its related organisations has come in front of everyone; a hostile environment against Muslims is being continuously created in the State with the help of the fundamentalist groups such as the Hindu Mahasabha," Swami Prasad Maurya, the party's general secretary, told *The Hindu*.

Such incidents were aimed at inciting riots in Uttar Pradesh, he said.

Samajwadi Party leader Swami Prasad Maurya addressing a public meeting in Pratapgarh district on Saturday. TWITTER/@SWAMIPMAURYA

Bharatiya Janata Party leaders declined to comment on the issue, stating that they have no information about the merits of the case.

Two held

Earlier, the Agra police arrested two persons and named a few members of the All India Hindu Mahasabha, and a few Muslim men as accused of slaughtering a cow and implicating four Muslim men with whom they had an enmity.

The Uttar Pradesh police identified Sanjay Jat, the national spokesman for the All India Hindu Mahasabha, as the primary suspect who conspired to implicate the Muslim men.

"Sanjay Jat and his friends slaughtered a cow on March 29, and asked Hindu Mahasabha leader Jitendra Kushwaha to complain against Mohammad Nakim, Mohammad Rizwan and Mohammad Shanu. In the investigation and technical surveillance, it was concluded that the named accused were not involved," the police said.

"Later in the inquiry, it come to light that Mr. Sanjay had an enmity with these people and wanted to implicate them in the case with help of few people," R.K. Singh, Agra Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), told media persons.

Frame rules under Right to Health Bill in Rajasthan at the earliest, say activists

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Hospitals that did not get concessions or govt. funds will be kept out of the purview of the Act

With the deadlock over the Right to Health Bill over, public health experts and activists have sought an early implementation of the Act with the framing of the rules.

The Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA)-Rajasthan has urged Governor Kalraj Mishra to give his assent to the Bill at the earliest. The Bill was passed in the Assembly on March 21.

Private doctors protesting against the Bill had called off their two-week-long agitation on April 4 after an agreement with the State government on the applicability of the legislation.

Private hospitals that have not got concessions or taken land and building at subsidised rates from the government will be kept out of the purview of the Act.

The JSA-Rajasthan's representatives said the State government should make an adequate budgetary allocation for implementing the law and outline each clause of the Bill in detail both numerically and quantitatively, aligning with the basic spirit of the legislation, to facilitate their quick and hassle-free application.

Narendra Gupta, senior consultant of the Chittorgarh-based voluntary group Prayas, said that despite some private hospitals going out of the ambit of the RTH law, there was "no compromise" with the core commitment of the Bill, which was to strengthen the public healthcare system.

He said civil society groups should also be involved in the process of implementation.

A people's convention was organised on Friday in support of the Bill and for making the demand for its early implementation. Over 400 persons, including civil society representatives, community members, lawyers and public health experts from all over the State attended the convention.

'Full health services'

The JSA-Rajasthan said the State government should make the basic primary health services available within half an hour's walking distance for everyone, full comprehensive primary health services that do not require hospitalisation of more than 24 hours within 12 km and all emergency medical care at a distance that can be covered with a vehicle in an hour.

JSA-Rajasthan coordinator Chhaya Pachauli said a grievance officer should be appointed in every health institution and the patients must also be provided with the option to file complaints against a health facility through a web portal or helpline. Besides, the participation of public health experts and paramedical staff must be ensured in the district and State health authorities to be established under the Right to Health Bill.

Trinamool to send 1 crore letters to PM on MGNREGS

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Three days after Trinamool Congress MPs held talks with officials of the Ministry of Rural Development over the release of funds to West Bengal under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Saturday said he will take the protest to Delhi and choke the national capital. Mr. Banerjee said one crore letters from the people of West Bengal would be sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking the release of funds.

"If BJP does not release the funds, we will take out agitations. We will do everything to get the money that the people of West Bengal deserve," Mr. Banerjee said in Alipurduar district.

Funds under the MGNREGS have not been released to the State since December 2021 after the Centre invoked Article 27 of the MGNREGA, which allows for stoppage of funds for violation of rules.

The Centre has withheld funds for the State for the financial year 2023-24 too.

Ram Navami violence: police block 'fact-finding' mission

Civil society activists, led by retired High Court judge L. Narasimha Reddy, not allowed to visit Rishra in Hooghly district of Bengal; a team of Indian Secular Front leaders were also stopped

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

A six-member team of civil society activists was on Saturday stopped by the police from visiting the areas affected by violence during Ram Navami celebrations at Rishra in Hooghly district of West Bengal.

The "fact-finding" team, led by retired Patna High Court judge L. Narasimha Reddy, was stopped near Konnagar before entering Rishra.

The police officers said that prohibitory orders were in place in the violence-affected area. Members of the team said that they would meet the Commissioner of Police, Chandannagar and urge him to allow the team to visit violence-affected areas.

A member of the team said that prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure only meant that assembly of people was barred.

The team is also scheduled to visit Shibpur in Howrah district on Sunday, and is also hoping to meet West Bengal Home Secretary B.P. Gopalika over the violence that had erupted over Ram Navami processions in Shibpur on March 30 and in Rishra April 4.

Close watch: Security personnel deployed as train services resume at violence-affected Rishra area, following clashes between two groups during a 'Ram Navami' procession, in Hooghly district. PTI

ISF team

In another development, leaders of the Indian Secular Front (ISF) were also stopped from visiting Rishra. "People at Rishra are peace-loving and united but some people did try to incite trouble here. Our objective was to go to Rishra and talk to the local administration on the prevailing situation," the ISF leader said.

Earlier, several leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), including State party president Sukanta Majumdar and Hooghly MP Locket Chatterjee, were stopped from visiting Rishra. After violence during Ram Navami, the Calcutta High Court had directed the deployment of Central forces during Hanuman Jayanti on April 6. There were no reports of any violence during the Hanuman Jayanti celebrations.

The Left Front has called for a peace march on April 9 in Hooghly and on April 10 from Bally Khal to Shibpur.

Despite Pawar's stand, Congress steps up attack on Adani stock issue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Cracks may have appeared within the Opposition's ranks on the issue of a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) investigation of the Adani stock controversy and the Hindenburg report, but the Congress leadership maintained here on Saturday that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was trying to divert attention from the real questions such as who invested ₹20,000 crore in Adani companies.

Two days after Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supremo Sharad Pawar questioned the Hindenburg report's veracity in an interview to NDTV, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi shared a satirical logo of Adani, designed with the names of Ghulam Nabi Azad, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Kiran Kumar Reddy, Himanta Biswa Sarma and Anil K. Antony.

While Mr. Azad left the Congress to form his own party, all the others were former Congress leaders who joined the BJP. "They hide the truth, that's why they mislead every day! The question remains the same – who invested ₹20,000 crore *benami* money in Adani's companies?" Mr. Gandhi asked on Twitter.

Rahul Gandhi

'Chinese link'

In another tweet with a video message, he alleged that the relationship between the Adani Group and China was very deep. The video alleged that the Adani group has close links with a Chinese-owned company. "Isn't this posing a threat to our national security?" asked the video message, which was made by the Congress and shared by Mr. Gandhi. "Understand chronology," Mr. Gandhi added.

In a third tweet, he said the focus of the Centre was on increasing the Adani group's income and protecting it from any investigation. Noting that the prices of wheat flour, rice, milk, ghee, mustard oil, pulses and LPG cylinders have increased manifold, he said that the Centre had not done anything to arrest the price spikes.

JPC vs SC panel

Joining the fray, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policy has been to "derail, distort, divert and defame". Mr. Ramesh maintained that a JPC probe was best positioned to investigate a stock market scam. Mr. Pawar had said that a Supreme Court-monitored committee would be sufficient to investigate Hindenburg report. "The SC committee has very limited terms of reference. It cannot bring out the deep nexus between the Prime Minister and Adani," Mr. Ramesh said, adding that only a JPC could find answers to the 100 questions posed by the Congress.

Campaign to tarnish Opposition through social media: Akhilesh

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday alleged that a coordinated campaign is being launched through social media and websites nourished by those in power, with an aim to tarnish the image of Opposition parties.

Mr. Yadav described it as a conspiracy to weaken Indian democracy and sought an inquiry into it.

He also attacked Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in a tweet over his remarks on how India has been performing better than Pakistan, saying comparison should always be done with someone better.

> The golden rule of comparison: Comparison should always be done with someone who is better than you
>
> **AKHILESH YADAV**
> Samajwadi Party leader

"Reference: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister is talking about being better than Pakistan. The golden rule of comparison: Comparison should always be done with someone who is better than you," added the SP leader, who served as the Chief Minister of the State between March 2012 and March 2017.

Addressing a function on Friday along with Home Minister Amit Shah in Azamgarh, Mr. Adityanath had claimed that while India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership is providing free rations to over 800 million people, the people in the neighbouring country were struggling to get two meals a day.

The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, without taking the name of any party, added that some people wanted India to become like Pakistan.

"All Indians are getting benefits of development schemes without any discrimination," he sid.

"The population of India is 140 crore. For the last three years, our government has been giving free ration to 80 crore people. On the other hand, the population of Pakistan is 22 crore and it has been facing severe food scarcity. Good leadership takes the responsibility of raising the standard of living of its citizens while standing with them in their happiness and sorrow. But corrupt, divisive and discriminatory leadership creates a situation like the one in Pakistan," Mr. Adityanath said.

ISRO should not become mouthpiece of BJP: Cong.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday took strong objection to the ISRO highlighting the achievements of the PM Mudra scheme.

"I can understand the Ministries concerned propagating this but why should ISRO be acting like a drumbeater for something entirely out of its domain," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on Twitter.

His response came to a tweet by ISRO in which it highlighted that the Prime Minister's Mudra scheme has fulfilled the entrepreneurial dreams of millions of Indians.

Not against JPC, but SC panel will be more effective: Pawar

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday said he was not completely opposed to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the charges against the Adani Group, but a Supreme Court-monitored panel would be more "useful and effective".

Explaining his stance, Mr. Pawar said, "It is true that NCP is one of the Opposition parties that has joined the demand for a JPC into the Adani issue in Parliament. But in a JPC, 15 persons will be from the ruling party and only five or six members will be from the Opposition. If the majority is from the ruling party, then it is not certain how much truth will come in front of the country," he told reporters here.

In an interview to news channel NDTV on the allegations by Hindenburg Research, Mr. Pawar said, "There is no need of a JPC." This is being viewed as breaking away from the Opposition stance.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said Mr. Pawar's statement would have no impact on Opposition unity.

'Different view'

Mr. Raut said, "This doesn't mean that there are any differences in the Opposition unity. On the issue of whether there should be a JPC probe or a Supreme Court inquiry, he has a viewpoint. He may have a different view, but Shiv Sena will stand where the entire Opposition is standing."

Minister backs Vijayvargiya's comment on women's dress

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Backing her party colleague Kailash Vijayvargiya, who is facing criticism for his remarks comparing "badly dressed" women to the mythological character Shurpanakha, Madhya Pradesh Minister Usha Thakur on Saturday said that one should wear decent clothes in public places so that "wrongful thoughts do not arise in anyone's mind".

Responding to a question on the statement made by Mr. Vijayvargiya on women's attire, Ms. Thakur, who holds the Culture portfolio in M.P.'s BJP government, also decried the "growing influence of Western culture" in society.

Ms. Thakur further said that "demonic tendencies start appearing in those not following Vedic Satya Sanatan traditions".

Mr. Vijayvargiya meanwhile told reporters that his statements were presented out of context.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT
e-Procurement Tender Notice
e-Tenders are invited for supply of "75,000 Kgs of Cashew Splits "S" grade through e-tenders-cum-e-reverse tendering" for a period of 01 month to the Marketing Department. T.T.Devasthanams. For Tender notice and tender details log on to the **web site http://www.tirumala.org and https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. For further details contact phone numbers: 0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax No: 0877-2264554**
Roc.No. 13953/Advt. No. 09/PRO/2023,. Dated: 08.04.2023 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
e-Procurement Tender Notice
Advt No. 03/D3/CE/TTD/2023-24, NIT No. 13/SE-II/2023-24 Dated: 06/04/2023
Name of Works: (1) Facilities Management Services for Housekeeping, Sanitation and maintenance of Vishnu Padam, Vikas, Govinda Nilayam, NGRH-I,II,III & IV, Srivari Kuteeram, Krishna Teja, JEO Camp Office, Reception Office, ATRH, NGC, SVRH, HRH, MBC, VVC, VVRH, ATC, TBC (including marriage cottages), Adiseshu RH, Balaji RH, Snehalatha RH, SPRH, Padmavathi Enquiry Offices, HVDC, AMPRO, Annamayya Bhavan, Gayatri Sadan, Venkata Vijayam and Krishna Sadan Rest house areas at Tirumala under West package for the years 2023-2026 (Three Years) **open tender type**, Time for completion 36 months. **Note: For full details log on to the website https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/ or http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in/**
Roc.No. 13953/Advt. No. 08/PRO/2023,. Dated: 08.04.2023 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

AAI CARGO LOGISTICS AND ALLIED SERVICES COMPANY LIMITED
Integrated Air Cargo Complex, Chennai Airport, Chennai – 600 016.
E-AUCTION/E-TENDER NOTICE
AAI (AAICLAS) Chennai, the custodian of Import Cargo shall conduct e-Auction / e-Tender to dispose uncleared, relinquished, unconnected Import / Courier cargo lying in the warehouse for more than 30 days from the date of landing on "as is where is basis" under Section 48 of Customs Act, 1962. For details log on to www.aircustomschennai.gov.in, www.aai.aero, https://aaiclas-ecom.org and www.mstc.co.in.
REGIONAL MANAGER, AAICLAS
INTEGRATED AIR CARGO COMPLEX
CHENNAI AIRPORT, CHENNAI – 600 016

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
PWD CIRCLE, PRATAPGARH
Email: sepratap@gmail.com Tel. No. 01478-294178
No. 1125 Date 28/03/2023
Notice Inviting Bid No. 07/2022-23
NIB code PWD2223A4982
Bids tor 6 works of road works are Invited from Interested bidders upto 6:00PM of 24/04/2023 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the Rajasthan state; and departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 1604.00 lakhs.
UBN No. PWD2223WSOB20289, PWD2223WSOB20290, PWD2223WSOB20291, PWD2223WSOB20292, PWD2223WSOB20293, PWD2223WSOB20294
DIPR/C/5118 Superintending Engineer, PWD Circle, Pratapgarh

OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
WATER RESOURCES ZONE, UDAIPUR
Near Akashvani, Chetak Circle, Udaipur (Rajasthan) 313001
Phone no. : 0294-2414794 Email:- aceudaipur2019@gmail.com
No.- ACE/Actt./Banswara/F /2022-23/4514 Dated: 20/03/2023
E-NIT NO. 33/2022-23
(NIB-WRD2223A0756)
Bids for the following work are invited from interested bidders upto 6 PM, dated 21-04-2023

S No	Name of work	Estimated Cost of Work (Rs. In Lacs)
1	Planning, Design and Construction of anicut and Solar based Micro Irrigation Schemes at Hakdi Ghati and Pawati ka Vara GP Bharkundi on Jakham Riverof District Pratapgarh and its O&M for a period of 8 years on Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) single responsibility turnkey basis.	3555.11

Other particulars of bid may be visited on the Procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in & www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/wrd
UBN No.- WRD2223WLOB02823
DIPR/C/5067 Additional Chief Engineer, Water Resources Zone, Udaipur

Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology
(established by the Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T Government of Karnataka)
Biotech Park, Electronics City, Phase I, Bengaluru 560100
IBAB Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology
Announces admission to its
M.Sc. in 'Big Data Biology'
(Affiliation with Bangalore University in process)
BANGALORE THE BIOTECH CITY
The M.Sc. in Big Data Biology aims to build advanced skills in students with a range of backgrounds, starting from the basics. It will be highly interdisciplinary covering various domains of Biology, Bioinformatics, Biostatistics, Genomics and NGS, Python and R, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Image Analysis and Clinical Trial Data Analysis.
UNIQUENESS OF THE M.Sc. IN BIG DATA BIOLOGY
- Highly interdisciplinary learning experience
- Corporate-and academic-research relevant curriculum
- Optimal balance of theory and practical classes
- Six month project work focussing on genomics, AI and Machine Learning, Image Informatics
- Interactions with scientists from industry through various training/workshops
- Highly accomplished and motivated faculty
- Excellent research and teaching infrastructure

Gateway to Industry and Academia
The new M.Sc. in Big Data Biology builds on a 1-year Post Graduate Diploma in Big Data Biology (PGD-BDB) offered by IBAB for 4 years (Jan 2019–Jan 2023). This programme was funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India. The programme was a phenomenal success and was rated as one of the best programmes in the country. Illustratively, the programme had a 100% placement track record in companies. The placement details of each student from the 4 batches are available on the IBAB website.
APPLY ONLINE **
Last date for receiving online applications **13 May 2023**
Online Entrance Examination **28 May 2023** Interviews **June 2023**
Commencement of the Programme **July 2023**
ELIGIBILITY: Bachelor's Degree in any branch of Life Science/ Technology/Agriculture/Mathematics/Statistics/Computer Science or Medicine**
** See website for further details. Changes in dates (if any) will be announced on the IBAB website
Details: www.ibab.ac.in/academics/msc-programme-in-big-data-biology/
E-mail: msc@ibab.ac.in Ph: 080-2852 8901/2852 8902/98458 10391

INDIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY (INSA)
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, **INDIA**
www.insaindia.res.in
Call for INSA Visiting Scientist Programme FY 2023-24
Indian National Science Academy invites applications from scientists/faculty of less endowed institutions to conduct Research and Training in advanced research Institutions/Laboratories within India under **INSA Visiting Scientist Programme for FY 2023-24**. The main objective of the programme is to facilitate scientists/faculty enhance their research capabilities with training in specific techniques or through utilizing facilities not available in their own institution. The scientists/faculty holding a regular position in R&D Organizations including Universities or Affiliated Colleges in India are eligible to apply under the programme. The fellowship period varies from one month to six months depending upon the proposed work or purpose.
The Online application forms and other detailed information including eligibility criteria are available on the INSA website: **http://www.insaindia.res.in** . Complete online application endorsed by the Head of the Institution should be submitted at **https://insaindia.res.in/?page_id=1062** latest by **01.05.2023**.
Assistant Executive Director-I (Science Promotion)

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग संभाग-प्रथम, उदयपुर
क्रमांकः- डी-ACE/NIT/2022-23/D-1683 दिनांकः 27.03.2023
निविदा संख्या- 18/2022-23
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से सड़क कार्य हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के एए श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र मे कुल 12 सड़क कार्य के लिए ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

कार्य का नाम	सड़क निर्माण कार्य- कुल 12 कार्य
निविदा की कुल लागत	राशि रु. 23004.00 लाख
ऑनलाईन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तारीख	04.04.2023 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से 25.04.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तारीख	26.04.2023 सायं 4.00 बजे से

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in व sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाइन सम्पादित की जावेगी।
NIB- PWD2223A4960
UBN- PWD2223WLOB20024, PWD2223WLOB20025, PWD2223WLOB20026, PWD2223WLOB20027, PWD2223WLOB20028, PWD2223WLOB20030, PWD2223WLOB20032, PWD2223WLOB20034, PWD2223WLOB20036, PWD2223WLOB20037, PWD2223WSOB20038, PWD2223WSOB20039
डीआईपीआर/सी/5091/2023 (अशोक कुमार शर्मा), अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. संभाग-प्रथम, उदयपुर

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त करौली
क्रमांक : 4175-84 दिनांक : 31.03.2023
निविदा सूचना संख्या 09/2022-23
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से करौली जिले के अन्तर्गत 3 सड़क कार्यों हेतु (दोष निवारण अवधि 5 वर्ष सहित) के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के विभिन्न सक्षम श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से संबंधित समस्त विवरण वेबसाइट www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं www.sppp.raj.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाइट www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर करवाना आवश्यक है।
निविदा सूचना संख्या 09/2022-23

Package No.	UBN No.	NIB No.
सम्पर्क सड़क गिरवरपुरा	PWD2223WSOB20479	PWD2223A5052
सम्पर्क सड़क रामनगर	PWD2223WSOB20480	PWD2223A5053
भरतून-डाबरा-सिन्धुपुरा सड़क निर्माण कार्य	PWD2223WSOB20481	PWD2223A5053

DIPR/C/5095/23 (मुरारी लाल मीना) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सानिवि वृत्त करौली

INBRIEF

CUET-UG application window to reopen for 3 days, says UGC

The application window for CUET-UG will reopen for three days from Sunday and there will be no change in the syllabus after rationalisation of NCERT textbooks, officials said. "Following requests from several students, we have decided to reopen the application portal for CUET-UG on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday and it will close at 11.59 p.m. on Tuesday. Students are requested to visit cuet.samarth.ac.in for more details," UGC Chairman Jagadesh Kumar said. "The notified syllabus will remain the same as the exam is not just for students from a particular board. Not all boards have rationalised the content," a senior National Testing Agency (NTA) official said. PTI

BJP plans to air 100th *Mann Ki Baat* in U.P. madrasas

In an attempt towards Muslim outreach, the Minority Morcha of the Uttar Pradesh BJP unit plans to organise a mass broadcast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 100th *Mann Ki Baat* speech at more than 100 locations associated with the Muslim community in the State, including madrasas and dargahs. "We are targeting 100 places symbolically related to the Muslim community including 50-60 madrasas, 30-35 dargahs and mazlis where maulanas [religious scholars] and people from the community can gather and listen to the PM's talk," the Minority Morcha president Kunwar Basit Ali told *The Hindu*.

CBI files chargesheet against Kochhars, Venugopal Dhoot

The CBI has filed a chargesheet against former MD and CEO of ICICI Bank Chanda Kochhar, her husband Deepak Kochhar and Videocon Group founder Venugopal Dhoot in a ₹3,250-crore loan fraud case, officials said on Saturday. The agency has filed the chargesheet under Sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 409 (criminal breach of trust) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The CBI has named nine entities in the chargesheet and has moved to file its final report before a special court in Mumbai without the mandatory requirement of sanction to prosecute Ms. Chanda Kochhar from ICICI Bank. PTI

Drunk man attempts to open emergency exit of flight, held

A 30-year-old passenger from Kanpur who was travelling from Delhi to Bengaluru on an IndiGo flight has been arrested for attempting to open the emergency exit mid-air, the police said on Saturday. The accused, Pratheek, was travelling by flight number 6E-308 on Friday. He was in an inebriated state, a police officer said. "The drunk passenger tried to create trouble for others seated in the plane and attempted to open the flap of the emergency exit," the police official said. A case was registered. "On noticing the violation, the crew on board alerted the captain and the passenger was appropriately cautioned," IndiGo said in a statement. PTI

SUDOKU

6	4	7						
		9	3					
3					9		2	
	1		4	2		8		7
				6				
8		2		1	3		5	
	5		6					2
					4	7		
						1	6	8

No.SS5763 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	9	1	6	2	7	4	3	5
3	4	6	5	9	8	7	2	1
7	5	2	3	1	4	6	9	8
5	1	7	2	3	6	8	4	9
9	2	3	4	8	1	5	7	6
4	6	8	9	7	5	2	1	3
6	3	9	7	5	2	1	8	4
2	8	4	1	6	3	9	5	7
1	7	5	8	4	9	3	6	2

On two wheels and a prayer, bike taxis have bumpy ride

Suchith Kidiyoor
BENGALURU

Shreyaa Shyam, 25, stands at Malleswaram in Bengaluru, waiting for a ride she has just booked on an app. As the traffic moves, bumper to bumper, she knows that if she takes an autorickshaw, the trip fare to Koramangala will be ₹227. Buses, of course, offer a ticket at a fraction of the cost at ₹25, but then she will probably reach only an hour later than if she took a motorbike taxi. At ₹134, the bike taxi comes at that just-right price and speed.

The service came into existence in Bengaluru in 2016. In Delhi and Mumbai, they began in 2018 and 2020, respectively.

Ms. Shyam, who works as a copywriter in an event management firm, is like thousands of commuters who use this service in India's metros to commute to work, catch up with friends or to reach a metro station, where haggling with autorickshaw drivers is another cause of stress.

However, with various State government flip-flops on whether app-based bike taxis are allowed or not, commuters, riders (white-board – not yellow board – vehicles) and aggregators all face problems, affecting both livelihoods and mobility. Services are disrupted, upsetting the bike taxi ecosystem built on youth-friendly rides, tapping into the lakhs of singles in the city.

Bengaluru hurdle

The Bike Taxi Association of Bengaluru says that more than 1.1 lakh two-wheelers are attached with aggregators Rapido and Uber, out of which 70,000 to 90,000 are active.

Adi Narayana, from Tirupati, shifted to Bengaluru in 2013. Until the outbreak of the pandemic, he worked as a cab driver. "In 2019, I bought a car and registered it as a taxi hoping to earn decent money. But everything changed after the outbreak of the pandemic that hit the transport sector," he says. He defaulted on his ₹18,000 EMI to the bank, and his vehicle was seized.

"In 2021, I decided to run a bike taxi as I had no income source. There are

Cheaper and faster: More than 1.1 lakh two-wheelers are attached with different aggregators in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

hundreds of people like me, each one has their own stories," he says, adding he earns between ₹1,000 and ₹1,500 a day. While Mr. Narayana is a full-time rider, there are students and workers who have fixed job timings who ride part-time.

In Bengaluru, they have not had an easy run of it, with the Transport Department impounding vehicles and imposing heavy penalties on bike owners for running bike taxi services without obtaining a licence. Auto drivers have heckled and abused riders from the time they began plying, but on March 20, it came to a head as they protested.

Start-up trouble

As with many start-ups which are just getting their skin in the game, this is not a seamless service with customer care at its heart. Jagrathi Nagaraj, 25, from Bengaluru, says she stopped using bike taxis for several reasons. "Riders would bring bikes with different registration numbers from the app. Some riders provide poor quality helmets that do not cover the head. I also found it uncomfortable when they brought bikes with heightened pillion seats," she says, adding that they often did not follow traffic rules.

This non-adherence is common, especially in Delhi, where rules are meant to be bent. Ajay R., 23, a photography student, has done a daily 9-km commute in 22 minutes through the duration of the ban order (the service was stopped in Delhi by the Arvind Kejriwal-led government on February 20). "The rider asks me to say I am a friend or relative, and I am okay with it," says Mr. Ajay, who is originally from Mumbai.

"Sometimes, riders arrive to pick me up, but cancel the ride on the application and drop me to my destination for the same price, to instantly receive the money," he says. He pays anywhere between ₹70 and ₹90 on a bike taxi, while autorickshaws and cabs on the same apps charge almost double.

For women though, this could be plain unsafe. Ramya Srinivas, 32, a freelance copy editor who moved to Delhi from Tirupati, delights in the rides, and the anonymity in a city that gives her that choice.

However, Ms. Srinivas avoids taking a ride from someone who has cancelled it. "That means there is no record of my ride, so I won't be able to register a complaint if I need to," says Ms. Srinivas, who sometimes takes up to four rides a day, saving around ₹3,000 a month after switching from autorickshaws.

In Mumbai, Meera Kumar misses her daily bike taxis, which unlike in Delhi, are not plying following a Bombay High Court ban since January. The 41-year-old bank manager heard about them through her sister in Delhi and wants them back. "It was uncomfortable to sit on the bike of a stranger because you don't know where to hold, but the rides were never more than 20 minutes long," she says. She carried a scarf to protect herself from the pollution, and a shower cap to wear beneath the shared helmet.

(With inputs from Muneef Khan in New Delhi and Sonam Saigal in Mumbai)

Kiren Rijiju

Minister's car meets with accident; no one hurt

Press Trust of India
BANIHAL/JAMMU

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju's car grazed a truck on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Ramban district on Saturday evening, officials said. He was not hurt in the accident.

The truck had suffered a breakdown and the Minister's car grazed it before coming to a halt, the officials said.

The accident took place near Sita Ram Passi in the Maroog area around 6 p.m. when he was on his way to Srinagar after attending two functions in Jammu and Udhampur, the officials said.

Security personnel in accompanying cars rushed and escorted the Minister out of his vehicle, they said.

Networks, content players diverge on converged norms

Traditional broadcasting and telecom companies say they are being undercut by unregulated digital players, who seek different approaches for regulating content and its carriers

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

A consultation paper by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on bringing about a "convergence" of broadcasting and content regulations has divided content providers, broadcasters and telecom operators. While telecom operators and broadcasters are arguing that content providers and messaging apps are undercutting their services through online distribution, the digital industry is defending existing regulatory frameworks, demanding a difference in approach towards content and its delivery.

"Due to the convergence of technologies, many new-age services including social media, OTT [over-the-top] communication and broadcasting services, online video streaming, etc. are operating at the intersection of these compartmentalised functions of the [government] departments and may remain out of the necessary

The TRAI has issued a consultation paper on bringing about a convergence of broadcasting and content regulations.

oversight and policy frame of the government despite being functionally similar to licensed services," Reliance Jio said in its submission.

'No actual convergence'

Online content providers are not convinced, however, that there is a need to bring the administrative regulation of these functions together. "Mere convergence of devices, services or networks does not warrant drawing of the conclusion that there is 'convergence' of telecom and broadcasting services," the Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA) said in its submission. (*The Hindu* is a DNPA member.)

The Asia Video Industry Association (AVIA), which represents Amazon, Netflix and Disney+ Hotstar, insisted that there was no actual convergence going on, and that content and carriage needed to be regulated separately.

"Whilst cooperation of regulators already occurs, e.g. with TRAI and MIB [the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting] coordinating on issues such as Net neutrality, consumer protection and anti-competitive practices, we would advocate for greater cooperation across regulators, along with harmonisation of legislation, rather than additional regulations or a converged regulator," the association said in its filing.

There is a more fundamental tension in the carriage-versus-broadcasting debate – telecom operators and broadcasters complained that they faced extensive regulatory burdens and levies, often to their detriment and to the benefit of online players. Tata Play, which runs a satellite TV business and also bundles streaming platforms, underlined this tension: "... we have been making laws not for the basic components [of content delivery] but combinations of components, as and when they have emerged," the company said. "As a consequence, the combinations that escaped regulations have thrived while the ones that got regulated, are languishing."

CSIR scientists find rare earth deposits in Anantapur

Press Trust of India
HYDERABAD

Scientists at the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research facility in Hyderabad, have reported the presence of lucrative rare-earth elements (REEs) in Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh.

These elements are key components in many electronic devices and whose industrial applications span sectors like imaging, aerospace, and defence. The REEs are lanthanum, cerium, praseodymium, neodymium, yttrium, hafnium, tantalum, niobium, zirconium, and scandium.

NGRI principal scientist P.V. Sunder Raju said they found enriched quantities of the REEs in "whole rock analyses". He said deep drilling for at least a kilometre will help ascertain the consistency of the elements' presence. According to him, the most important end-use of REEs was to make permanent magnets, which have essential use in devices like smartphones, computers, jet aircraft, and other products.

Street performers in Delhi face a theatre of the absurd

Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

On a Sunday afternoon, Wazid, a 48-year-old street magician, was arranging props for his show in Noida when a bystander walked up to him and told him to leave the spot. "He threatened to beat me up if I didn't take my performance elsewhere. I had to relent," Mr. Wazid says, adding that facing such harassment is the daily reality of street performers in the National Capital Region.

Without a formal law to provide protection, busking – the act of performing in public places for voluntary donations – has witnessed a steady decline.

Ishamuddin Khan, a 52-year-old street magician, says the police use colonial-era laws such as the Dramatic Performances Act, 1876, and the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959, to keep them off the streets.

While West Bengal and Delhi have repealed the Dramatic Performances Act, it is active in modified versions in several States. The Law Commission of India, in its 248th report, "Obsolete laws: warranting immediate repeal", had said the archaic law "has no place in a modern democratic society".

In the absence of clear-cut guidelines, whether a public performance should be granted permission or not is left to the discretion of the local police.

'Need regulation'

Regulation is needed to provide space to artistes to showcase their talent and earn a livelihood with dignity and without fearing the authorities, says Delhi-based lawyer Abhishek Kumar Pathak.

"Though begging and busking have different literal meanings, Section 2 of the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959, views busking as a form of begging," Mr. Pathak says.

However, Varun Dagar, who left his home in Palwal, Haryana, to perform freestyle dance at Connaught Place in Delhi, says busking should not be legalised till it is properly defined in law.

"I have been taken to the local police station several times. Now, the police don't say anything to me. My struggles have made the path to busking a bit easier for others," he says.

(From left) Ishrat, Wazid, Rajadan Shah and Ishamuddin Khan at Kathputli colony transit camp, in New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Disappearing act

Today, *jaadugars* (magicians), *madaaris* (performers with trained animals), *nats* (acrobats), *baazigars* (jugglers), *behroopiyas* (impersonators) and *sapera* (snake charmers) are quickly disappearing from public spaces.

"We belong to the *jaadugar* community. We have been moving around the country and performing tricks for thousands of years. We move to the hills in summer. Come winter, we head to Mumbai, Kolkata, and the coastal belts," Mr. Khan says.

"It is a tragedy that a majority of *jaadugars* are poor and illiterate, and lack representation in Parliament. Legislators should pass laws to help us," he adds. Facing a dead end, many street performers have turned to other professions.

"I faced harassment from the police whenever I put up a show," says Rajadan Shah, 60, a street magician-turned-scrap dealer. "What is the harm in asking for one or two rupees from the public for showcasing our talent?"

Mr. Khan says he has feared the police ever since his father was beaten up while preparing for a performance in Haryana. "A policeman approached us and sought a bribe of ₹2. He hit my father when he said he had not made any money yet and would pay up after the performance," he says.

Online petition

For over a decade, Mr. Khan has been working with 300-400 families of street performers in the National Capital Region to make a collective push towards ensuring that their trade is regulated. Finding little success, he has started a petition on Change.org demanding that the Delhi Police, the Delhi government and the New Delhi Municipal Council permit regulated busking in public spaces. The petition has garnered over 7,600 signatures so far.

QUETTA

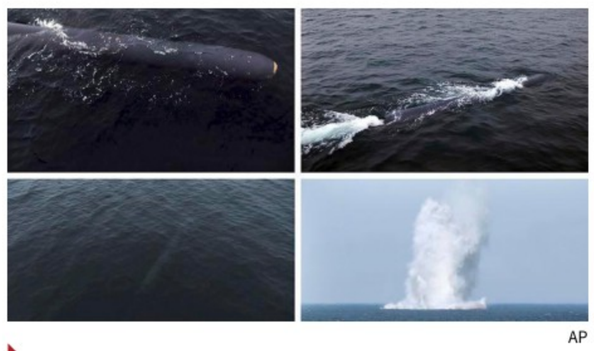
'Forced disappearances', curbs in Balochistan invite public wrath

AFP

Pakistan's human rights commission has sounded an alarm over the mounting public frustration over forced disappearances, economic exclusion, curbs on press freedom, and allegations of political manipulation by the establishment in the restive Balochistan province. PTI

SEOUL

North Korea says it tested another 'underwater nuclear attack drone'



AP

North Korea said it tested another underwater nuclear drone, in its latest response to South Korean and U.S. military drills, though analysts have questioned whether Pyongyang has such a weapon. Recently, North Korea tested an underwater nuclear-capable drone, and also carried out the launch of an intercontinental missile. AFP

TEXAS

Judge halts the FDA approval for mifepristone abortion pill in U.S.

REUTERS

A federal judge in the U.S. halted federal regulators' approval of the abortion pill mifepristone while a legal challenge proceeds, partially granting a request by anti-abortion groups. The ruling by U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk in Amarillo, Texas, allows the Biden administration one week to appeal the decision. REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysian Prime Minister vows to protect rights in South China Sea

REUTERS

Malaysia said it was committed to protecting its rights in the South China Sea after China expressed concern about Malaysian energy projects in a part of the sea that China claims. Malaysia PM Anwar Ibrahim (in photo) cited China's concerns about activity by the state firm Petronas in a part of sea that Malaysia lays claim to. REUTERS

Tsai's U.S. visit prompts military drills by China in Taiwan Strait

Taiwanese President pledges to work with the 'U.S. and other like-minded countries' in the face of 'continued authoritarian expansionism'; Taiwan says nine Chinese warships and 71 military aircraft detected around the island by Saturday 4 p.m.

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Tit-for-tat: A Chinese warship sails during a military drill near the Taiwan-controlled Matsu Islands on Saturday. REUTERS

China launched military drills around Taiwan on Saturday, in what it called a "stern warning" to the self-ruled island's government following a meeting between its President and the U.S. House Speaker.

Dubbed "United Sharp Sword", the three-day operation – which state media said includes rehearsing an encirclement of Taiwan – will run until Monday, the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) Eastern Theatre Command said in a statement.

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen immediately denounced the drills, pledging to work with "the U.S. and other like-minded countries" in the face of "continued authoritarian expansionism".

China's war games would send planes, ships and personnel into "the maritime areas and air space of the Taiwan Strait, off the northern and southern coasts of the island, and to the east", said Shi Yin, a PLA spokesman.

A report from state broadcaster CCTV on to detail the type of weaponry China was putting through its paces, including "long-range rocket artillery, naval destroyers, missile boats, air force fighters, bombers, jammers and refuellers".

Taiwan's Defence ministry released a video showing soldiers loading anti-aircraft missile launchers, fighter jets taking off, and other military preparedness exercises.

The footage included surveillance of China's *Shandong* aircraft carrier, which sailed through waters south of Taiwan earlier this week.

The 75-second clip, which included English subtitles, ended with a caption saying: "We seek neither escalation nor conflict, but we remain steadfast, rational, and serious to react and defend our territory and sovereignty."

Live-fire drills

Exercises on Monday will include live-fire drills off the coast of China's Fujian province, which faces Taiwan, the local maritime authority said.

The manoeuvres come after a meeting between Ms. Tsai and U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in California.

Taiwan's Defence Ministry said that by 4 p.m. (1330 IMT) on Saturday nine Chinese warships and 71 military aircraft had been detected around the island.

Israel starts calling up Army reservists after latest attack in Tel Aviv kills an Italian

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Collateral cost: People gather at the site of Palestinian attack where an Italian tourist was killed in Tel Aviv on Saturday. AP

Israel began calling up police and Army reservists on Saturday after separate attacks killed three persons, including an Italian tourist, in Tel Aviv and the occupied West Bank.

Violence has surged since the Israeli police clashed with Palestinians inside Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque on Wednesday, with Israel bombarding Gaza and Lebanon in response to rocket fire by Palestinian militants.

Seven injured

The Italian was killed and seven other tourists wounded when an Israeli Arab ploughed a car into pedestrians on the Tel Aviv seafront on Friday evening and flipped over before being shot dead.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni named the dead man as Alessandro Parini, 36.

The police identified the driver as a 45-year-old from the Arab town of Kfar Kassem in central Israel.

Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas, which rules Gaza, said the attack was a "natural and legitimate response" to Israel's "aggression" in the Al-Aqsa mosque.

On Friday, two British-Israeli sisters were killed, and their mother seriously wounded when their car was fired on in the Jordan Valley in the occupied West Bank.

High-level meeting of officials from Nepal, China

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

Officials from Nepal and China have held a high-level meeting to discuss existing bilateral ties and cooperation and deliberated on the ways to further expand and consolidate cooperation in various areas like trade promotion, investment and connectivity.

The 15th meeting of the Bilateral Diplomatic Consultation Mechanism between the Foreign Ministries of Nepal and China was held in Beijing on Friday.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of different infrastructure development projects under China's grant assistance as well as Chinese-contracted projects and agreed to expedite the implementation of the projects, according to a statement from the Nepal side.

U.S. launches probe into alleged leak of Ukraine war files

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

The documents give details on the progress of weapons and equipment going into Ukraine

The U.S. Justice Department has launched an investigation into the possible release of Pentagon documents that were posted on several social media sites and appear to detail the U.S. and NATO aid to Ukraine, but may have been altered or used as part of a misinformation campaign.

The documents, which were posted on sites such as Twitter, are labelled secret and resemble routine updates that the U.S. military's Joint Staff would produce daily but not distribute publicly. They are dated ranging from February 23 to March 1, and provide what appears to be details on the progress of weapons and equipment going into Ukraine.

They are not war plans and they provide no details on any planned Ukraine offensive. And some inaccuracies – including estimates of Russian troops deaths that are significantly lower than numbers publicly stated by U.S. officials – have led some to question the documents' authenticity.

In a statement on Friday, Sabrina Singh, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said the Defense Department "made a formal referral" of the matter to the Justice Department for investigation. And the Justice Department, in a separate statement on Friday, said, "We have been in communication with the Department of Defense related to this matter and have begun an investigation."

Schoolgirl poisonings continue across Iran

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Dozens of schoolgirls were poisoned on Saturday in several schools across Iran, local media reported, in continuation of the mysterious phenomenon that has shaken the country for months.

Since late November many schools, mostly for girls, have been affected by sudden poisoning incidents from gases or toxic substances, in some cases causing fainting and hospitalisation among the students.

At least "60 students were poisoned in a girls' school in the town of Haftkel" in Khuzestan.

According to an official count provided on March 7, "more than 5,000 students" have been affected by similar poisonings in more than 230 establishments, located in 25 of the country's 31 provinces.

Pakistan President returns to House a Bill curtailing powers of Chief Justice

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Arif Alvi

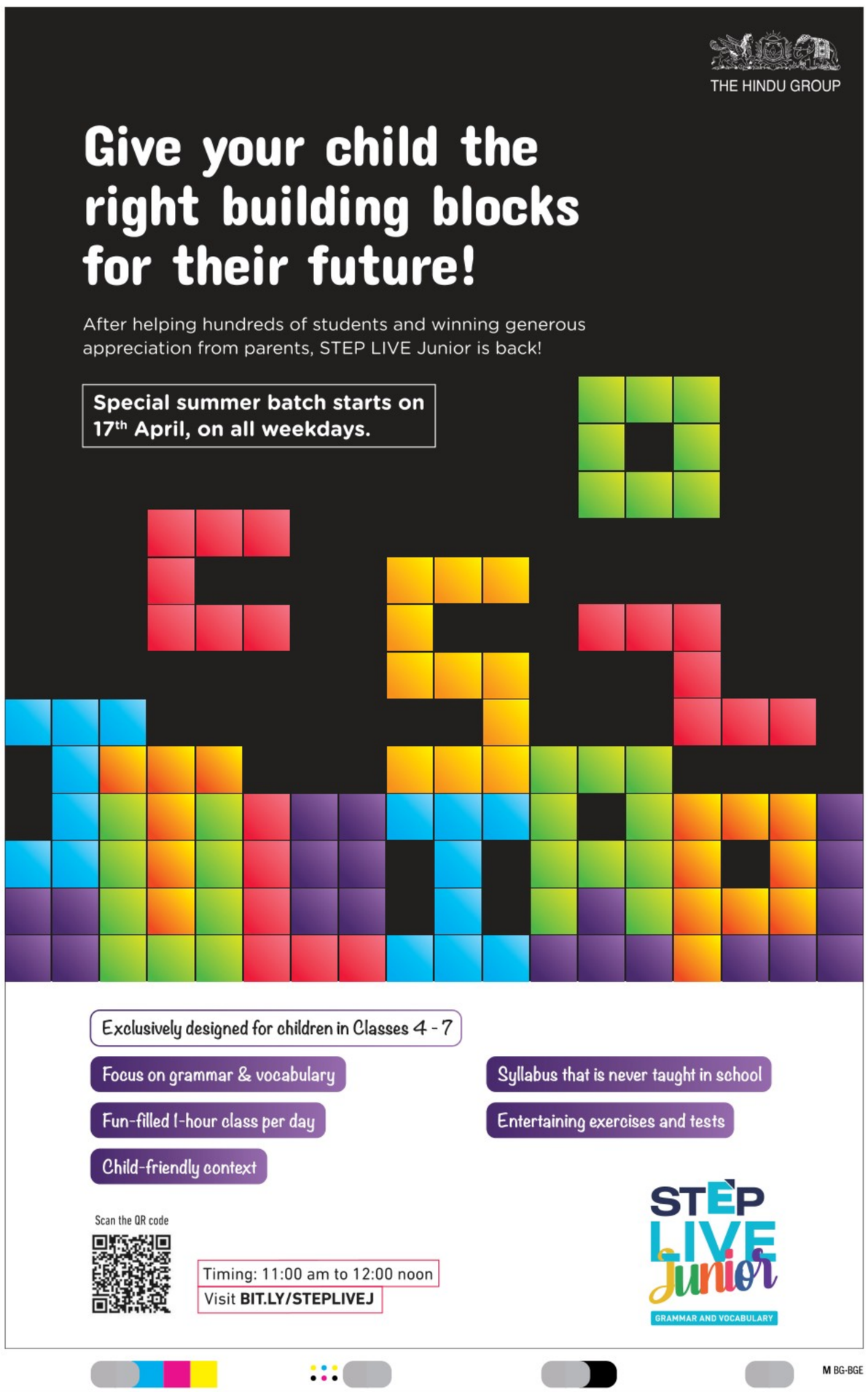
Pakistan's judicial imbroglio intensified on Saturday after President Arif Alvi returned to Parliament for reconsideration a Bill aimed at clipping the powers of the chief justice, saying the proposed legislation is beyond the jurisdiction of the legislative body.

Pakistan is witnessing a rift between the judiciary and the government after a three-member Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Uma Ata Bandial fixed May 14 as the new date for elections to the Punjab Assembly and quashed the Election Commission's decision to extend the date of the poll from April 10 to October 8.

The apex court's verdict was criticised by the coalition government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, which has refused to accept it. The government also is keen to curb the *suo moto* (on its own) powers of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Bandial.

The Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023 was approved by both houses of Parliament last month and sent to the President for assent.

The President said that the proposed legislation was *prima facie* beyond the jurisdiction of Parliament as only the Supreme Court has the power to make laws to regulate its business.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GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY

In pursuit of a magic number, physicists discover new uranium isotope

Vasudevan Mukunth

While studying the atoms of heavy elements, physicists in Japan discovered a previously unknown isotope of uranium, with atomic number 92 and mass number 241, i.e. uranium-241.

The finding refines our understanding of nuclear physics. What shapes the large nuclei of heavy elements take and how often (or rarely) defines the boundaries of models that physicists use to design nuclear power plants and models of exploding stars.

"The discovery of a new neutron-rich uranium isotope is the first since 1979," Toshitaka Niwase, a postdoctoral fellow with the KEK Wako Nuclear Science Centre (WNSC), Japan, and a member of the study, wrote in an email to *The Hindu*.

The arrangement of protons and neutrons in an atomic nucleus follows some rules. We know these rules are based on the nuclei's properties and structure.

"In general, an atom's mass is slightly lower than the sum of the masses of protons, neutrons, and electrons," Michiharu Wada, head of the WNSC and another member of the group, explained via email.

So, systematically measuring the mass of "uranium and its neighbourhood elements yields essential nuclear information to understand the synthesis of such heavy elements in explosive astronomical events".

The researchers accelerated uranium-238 nuclei into plutonium-198 nuclei at the KEK Isotope Separation System. The resulting nuclear fragments contained different isotopes. This is how they identified uranium-241 and measured the mass of its nucleus.

Theoretical calculations suggest it has a half-life of 40 minutes, according to Dr. Niwase.

The team used time-of-flight mass spectrometry to estimate the mass of each nucleus depending on the time it took to reach a detector. "Precise mass value is a good fingerprint of atomic nuclides," Dr. Wada said.

There is particular interest in 'magic number' nuclei: containing a number of protons or neutrons such that the resulting nucleus is highly stable. The heaviest known 'magic' nucleus is lead (82 protons). Physicists have been trying to find the next such element.

"We'd like to extend the systematic mass measurements towards many neutron-rich isotopes, at least to neutron number 152, where a new 'magic number' is expected," Dr. Wada said. Their work is a "first step" in this direction, he added.

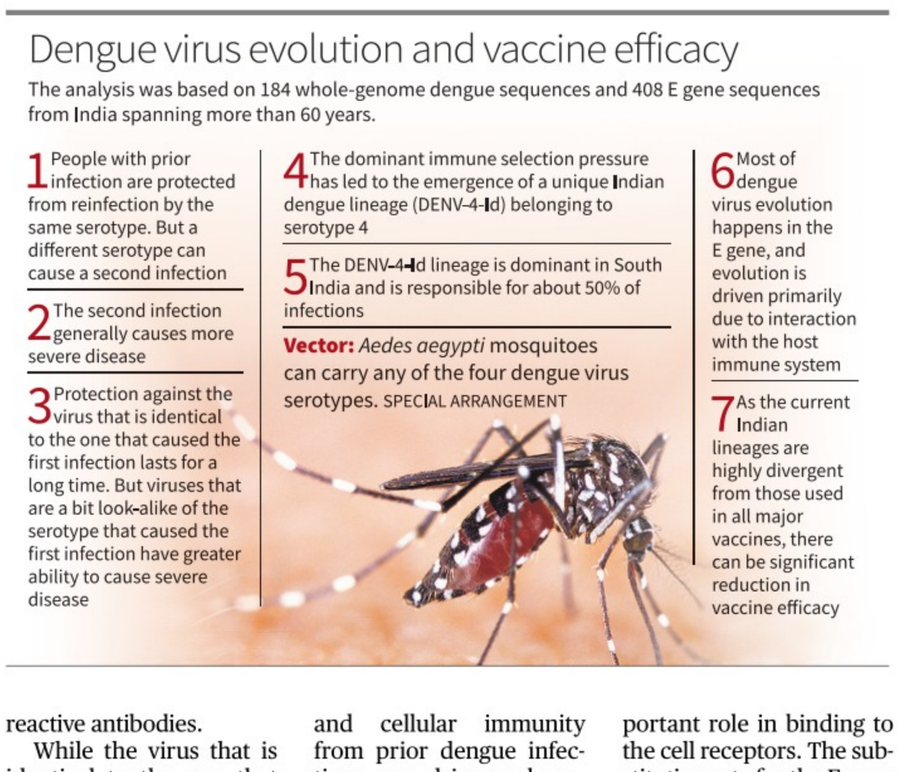
Their paper was published by *Physical Review Letters* on March 31.

Prior infections driving dengue virus evolution in India

Several lines of evidence point to interlinked dengue evolution driven by the underlying population-level natural immunity

R. Prasad

Based on an analysis of 184 whole-genome dengue sequences and 408 E gene sequences from India spanning more than 60 years, a team led by Dr. Rahul Roy from the Department of Chemical Engineering at the IISc have carried out a detailed investigation of the virus diversity and evolutionary dynamics of the virus in India. They have analysed how the virus evolves from its ancestors in the presence of serotypes.


Dengue virus evolution and vaccine efficacy
The analysis was based on 184 whole-genome dengue sequences and 408 E gene sequences from India spanning more than 60 years.
1 People with prior infection are protected from reinfection by the same serotype. But a different serotype can cause a second infection
2 The second infection generally causes more severe disease
3 Protection against the virus that is identical to the one that caused the first infection lasts for a long time. But viruses that are a bit look-alike of the serotype that caused the first infection have greater ability to cause severe disease
4 The dominant immune selection pressure has led to the emergence of a unique Indian dengue lineage (DENV-4-Id) belonging to serotype 4
5 The DENV-4-Id lineage is dominant in South India and is responsible for about 50% of infections
Vector: Aedes aegypti mosquitoes can carry any of the four dengue virus serotypes. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT
6 Most of dengue virus evolution happens in the E gene, and evolution is driven primarily due to interaction with the host immune system
7 As the current Indian lineages are highly divergent from those used in all major vaccines, there can be significant reduction in vaccine efficacy

Cross-protection

While the first infection with any of the four dengue serotypes can prevent reinfection by the same serotype for a long period, the second infection by a different serotype can have very high viral load and cause severe disease. This is because the cross-protection offered by the first infection acts as a shield against other serotypes only for two-three years and then begins to drop.

Around one-three years after the cross-protection begins to wane is the time when antibody-dependent enhancement is most likely. This is because while the antibodies are not able to neutralise the virus belonging to different serotypes, the virus is better able to bind to the antibodies leading to higher cell infection and thus enhanced severity and viral load. This is called the antibody-dependent enhancement mediated by cross-reactive antibodies.

While the virus that is identical to the one that caused the first infection will be neutralised for a long time, viruses that are a bit look-alike of the serotype that caused the first infection have greater ability to take advantage of the weakened immune responses and bind to pre-existing antibodies and cause severe disease than the three other serotypes that did not cause the first infection, according to Suraj Jagtap from the Department of Chemical Engineering, IISc and the first author of a paper published in *PLOS Pathogens*.

"Several lines of evidence point to this interlinked dengue evolution driven by the underlying population-level natural immunity in India. The cross-reactive antibodies and cellular immunity from prior dengue infections can drive such co-evolution in endemic regions," Dr. Roy elaborates.

The dominant immune selection pressure has led to the emergence of a unique Indian dengue lineage (DENV-4-Id) belonging to serotype 4 (DENV-4). "The DENV-4-Id lineage has diverged away from global sequences," says Dr. Roy.

South India

"The DENV-4-Id lineage is dominant in South India, and about 50% of infections in South India are due to this India-unique lineage," says Dr. Roy. "We strongly feel that the DENV-4-Id lineage will become dominant in North India too."

The E gene, which is seen across the dengue virus exterior, plays an important role in binding to the cell receptors. The substitution rate for the E gene was highest at 44% in genotype I of DENV-4 compared with the whole genome, suggesting high immunological pressure driving the divergence of the DENV-4 E gene. "Most of dengue virus evolution happens in the E gene. This suggests that evolution is driven primarily due to interaction with host immune system," says Dr. Roy.

Taking a cue from the divergence of DENV-4-Id, the researchers examined whether the high seroprevalence can play a role in the evolution of dengue in India. "We identified recurring fluctuations in the divergence of envelope gene sequences of circulating dengue viruses in South India, indicating that all four serotypes are co-evolving," says Dr. Roy.

"In South India, we find that, in general, the E gene diverges from the ancestral sequence for all serotypes, but this divergence fluctuates over time. Overall, in our dataset, the E gene sequences within a serotype and between serotypes bring the viruses closer or similar to the ancestors or drift away from the ancestors. And this happens in a coordinated fashion across all four serotypes," says Dr. Roy. "This behaviour is pronounced in DENV-2 and DENV-4 with an estimated time period (peak-to-peak) of about three years."

The evolution of the viruses across serotypes has implications in vaccine efficacy. The majority of strains used for developing dengue vaccines are based on strains isolated between 1964 and 1988.

"As the current Indian lineages are highly divergent from those used in all major vaccines (the genotypes used in the vaccine strains are not observed in India), there is a potentially significant reduction in vaccine efficacy," says Dr. Roy. "Overall, about 6% of all known epitopic regions are different in Indian dengue sequences compared to the vaccine strains. Further, almost half of all the E protein variations lie either in known epitopic regions where the antibodies bind to or have a positive antigenic effect."

Indian variants of DENV-1 and DENV-4 are distinct from all the vaccines compared to DENV-2 and DENV-3.

Pelicans, mangroves, and salt marshes

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

The island of Sriharikota serves as a barrier that shields a brackish water lagoon that we call the Pulicat lake. Being mostly off-limits to tourists because it is an ISRO launch site, this area is teeming with 76 species of water birds. The lake itself has an average depth of only one metre, although it is nearly 60 km long.

The tidal flats, and both fresh and brackish water wetlands found here are ideal for the spot-billed pelican.

Although classified as 'Near-Threatened' in the IUCN red list, this bird looms large in our minds when we think of water birds.

Blue spots

The spot-billed pelican's comical walk points to weak leg muscles, which also means that the bird is not a great swimmer, and catches fish near the surface of the water. The common name comes from blue spots on the sides of the large bills. A social bird, this species sometimes goes fishing in groups, forming a semi-circle that pushes the fish towards shallow water. It also forms a foraging partnership with the little cormorant.

Cormorants are divers, and their dives cause the fish present in deeper regions to scatter towards the surface, where the pelican awaits them.

Adult spot-billed pelicans weigh 4.5-5 kg. The pouch, which is called the gular, is for catching fish. In the breeding season, the adult may bring home 2 kg of fish in one catch. Spot-billed pelicans form stable colonies along with other water birds. Nests are built on trees, and two-three eggs are laid. When they are about a month old, the chicks destroy the nests.

Breeding colonies occur very close to, or even within villages, and the birds do not seem perturbed by human activity, and the villagers welcome and protect the pelicans and the nests. Villagers use the droppings of the spot-billed pelican as a fertilizer. After the breeding season, pelican populations scatter over a very large area as they forage for food.

One of six: The Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh is one of the breeding sites for spot-billed pelicans. FILE PHOTO

Breeding sites

A detailed survey of spot-billed pelican populations by Kannan and Manakadan (*Forktail*, Vol 21, 2005) placed a crude estimate of their number in India at 6,000-7,000. The survey identified breeding sites for these birds in South India at Karaivetti-Vettangudi near Thanjavur and Koonthankulam near Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu, Kokkarebellur (Mandya District) and Karanji Lake (Mysuru city) in Karnataka, and Uppalapadu near Guntur and Nelapattu near the Pulicat lake in Andhra Pradesh.

Andhra Pradesh has recently lost a large breeding colony of the bird at the Kolleru lake, where aquaculture has contributed to a total degradation of the ecosystem.

Paleobotanists have shown that the Pulicat lake, now a salty marsh, was a thick mangrove forest in the 16th century. Wetland ecosystems lock up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, as 'Blue Carbon'. As carbon sinks, mangroves can store 1,000 tonne of carbon per hectare.

Ramsar sites

Wetlands of global importance are called Ramsar sites, after the city in Iran where the Treaty on Wetlands was signed.

India has 75 Ramsar sites, of which 14 are in Tamil Nadu, including three added last year: the Karikili bird sanctuary, the Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest and the Pichavaram mangrove. The spot-billed pelican is seen in all these places.

(The article was written in collaboration with Sushil Chandani, who works in molecular modelling. sushilchandani@gmail.com)

SNAPSHOTS

Unique mode of reproduction in males in yellow crazy ants

Male yellow crazy ants (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*) are chimeras of two separate genetic lineages, researchers report in a study (*Science*) that reveals a unique mode of reproduction in this species – one previously unknown to science. While most multicellular organisms develop from a single cell zygote into a collection of genetically identical cells – a hallmark of biological inheritance – the new findings show that male yellow crazy ants are composed of haploid cells with two distinct genetic compositions.

Methyl groups enhance key properties of PHA plastics

A class of polyesters considered a promising alternative to common plastics have now been made more mechanically tough and thermally stable. Researchers replaced the reactive hydrogens in the monomer of these materials – polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA) plastics – and found that it enhanced PHA thermal and mechanical properties and enabled closed-loop chemical recyclability. The new approach (*Science*) could provide a route for increased use of sustainable PHA plastics.

Obese people have higher risk of autoimmune diseases

Evidence suggests that obese individuals have a higher risk of developing autoimmune diseases such as type 1 diabetes. A possible mechanism that could explain this connection – metabolic overload that suppresses immunoregulation and induces inflammatory responses, thereby increasing the risk of autoimmunity (*Science*). Given thisimmunometabolic feedback, it is possible that altering diet, or drugs that mimic these conditions can modulate autoimmunity.

Question Corner

Ice sheets

How fast can ice sheets retreat?

Ice sheets can retreat up to 600 metres a day during periods of climate warming, 20 times faster than the highest rate of retreat previously measured. An international team of researchers used high-resolution imagery of the sea floor to reveal just how quickly a former ice sheet that extended from Norway retreated at the end of the last Ice Age, about 20,000 years ago, as per a release. The team mapped more than 7,600 small-scale landforms called 'corrugation ridges' across the sea floor. The ridges are less than 2.5 m high and are spaced between 25 and 300 metres apart. These landforms formed when the ice sheet's retreating margin moved up and down with the tides, pushing sea floor sediments into a ridge every low tide. The researchers calculated how quickly the ice sheet retreated. Their results (*Nature*) show the former ice sheet underwent pulses of rapid retreat at a speed of 50 to 600 metres per day. This is faster than any ice sheet retreat rate that has been observed in Antarctica.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Why have key oil producers vowed output cuts?

Does this decision have the approval of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries?

Priyali Prakash

The story so far:

Major oil-producing countries including Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, as well as Russia, have announced cuts in oil production that will start in May and last until the end of 2023. The announcement caused an instant uptick in prices of crude oil. On April 3, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), at its 48th meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee, acknowledged the crude oil production cuts announced by major oil-producing countries. The OPEC+ countries include the 13 core members of OPEC and 10 other major oil producers. The new production cuts are in addition to those announced in October 2022.

Why are OPEC+ countries cutting crude oil production?

According to OPEC's official statement, the decision to cut crude oil production was aimed at supporting market stability. In February 2023, Russia announced it would cut crude oil production by half a million barrels a day after Western countries capped the price of its crude as a response to the war in Ukraine. Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said that cutting production would help restoration of "market relations", *Reuters* reported.

Experts believe that cutting production will lead to an increase in crude oil prices. According to some reports, the production cut is a way of punishing short sellers who had bet on oil prices falling

The G-7 bloc of advanced economies announced a price cap of $60 per barrel for Russian crude oil in December 2022. "The G7 and all EU Member States have taken a decision that will hit Russia's revenues even harder and reduce its ability to wage war in Ukraine," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen had said in a statement at the time. "It will also help us to stabilise global energy prices, benefitting countries across the world who are currently confronted with high oil prices," she added.

Moreover, recent developments in the banking sector in the U.S. and Europe, including the collapse of the Silicon Valley Bank and the turmoil at Credit Suisse, have fuelled the possibility of an incoming recession. In March 2023, oil prices slipped 1% to a two-week low, on speculation of a recession and therefore a reduction in oil demand. Experts believe that cutting production will lead to increase in costs of crude oil in the international market. A sudden jump in both Brent crude and the U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude prices – both leading global oil benchmarks – was observed in the wake of the announcement of the decision to reduce production.

According to *Reuters*, the production cut is also a way of punishing short sellers who bet on oil prices declining.

Are the output cuts significant?

As per the latest voluntary production adjustment, Saudi Arabia will be cutting 5,00,000 barrels a day; Iraq 2,11,000; United Arab Emirates 1,44,000; Kuwait 1,28,000; Kazakhstan 78,000; Algeria 48,000; Oman 40,000; and Gabon 8,000 barrels a day. These cuts are in addition to the two million barrels per day cut announced in October 2022. Russia had already announced a cut of 5,00,000 barrels a day, earlier this year.

The U.S. called OPEC's decision "unadvisable". "Our focus is going to remain on making sure that energy markets are able to support a growing economy and keep prices down for Americans as they head to the pump," a White House official said during a press interaction.

How will it impact India?

According to the World Energy Outlook 2021 data, India ranks third in the world in crude oil imports after China and the U.S., while it ranks a distant 21 in crude oil production and 26 in natural gas production.

The disparity in the two rankings shows the country's increasing reliance on imports to meet its energy needs.

India's crude oil import from Russia touched new heights in February this year, reaching 1.6 million barrels per day. This was more than the combined imports from conventional suppliers like Iraq and Saudi Arabia. At the same time, supply from Iraq and Saudi Arabia touched a 16-month low.

Russia's increased share in India's crude oil import is a direct consequence of the fallout between Russia and western countries following its Ukraine invasion that began in February 2022.

The U.S. and countries in Europe decided not to buy crude oil from Russia in a bid to isolate the country on an international scale. The decision, however, provided India with an opportunity to buy Russian oil, reportedly at discounted rates.

What is behind China's renaming spree?

Why has it 'standardised' the names of more places in Arunachal Pradesh? What has been India's reaction to the move? How will it impact relations? Has China hardened its stand on the border dispute? Have such 'standardisation' moves happened before?

Ananth Krishnan

The story so far:

On April 2, the Chinese government announced it would "standardise" the names of 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh. The Ministry of Civil Affairs in Beijing published a list of 11 places along with a map showing the Indian State of Arunachal Pradesh as a part of China's Tibet Autonomous Region. While India dismissed the renaming, which is a largely symbolic move and unlikely to have any tangible on-the-ground impact on the border dispute, it has underlined a hardening Chinese stance on the boundary, the dim prospects of any meaningful progress in the long-running talks, as well as the current strained relations between the neighbours.

What are the places on the list?

The Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs notification announced 11 "place names for public use", in Mandarin, Tibetan and English (pinyin transliteration of the Chinese names). These include five mountain peaks, two more populated areas, two land areas and two rivers. All of the 11 sites are on Indian territory, and the southernmost is close to Itanagar. The Chinese government referred to the location of the sites

All the sites are on Indian territory and the southernmost is close to Itanagar, capital of Arunachal Pradesh

as "Zangnan", or "south Tibet", which is how it refers to Arunachal Pradesh. China claims as much as 90,000 sq km in the eastern sector of the India-China boundary, covering the entire State.

The list of names follows a new rule on the management of place names by the State Council, or China's cabinet, that came into effect on May 1 last year, according to the Party-run *Global Times*, which said the regulation "requires strict management over the naming and renaming of localities and sites" and standardising names.

Is this the first such renaming attempt?

This is the third time China is issuing names for places in Arunachal Pradesh, a gesture seen as provocative by India and one that has coincided with periods of strains in relations. In 2017, the first list of "standardised" names was issued for six places in Arunachal, which was then seen as a retaliatory move after the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, visited the State. The second such list was issued in December 2021, more than a year into the crisis sparked by China's multiple transgressions across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) starting in April 2020. The second list coincided with a new border law passed by the Chinese government that called for various Chinese civilian and military agencies to take steps to "safeguard" Chinese territory, including through such administrative measures. The second list had 15 places, including eight towns, four mountains, two rivers and the Sela mountain pass.

Zhang Yongpan, a leading border expert at Beijing's Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the *Global Times* in an earlier interview that the renaming lists, as well as the border law, were "important moves made by the country to safeguard national sovereignty, better maintain national security and manage border-related matters at the legal level amid regional tensions, including frictions with India." The border law, which took effect on January 1, 2022, contains 62 articles covering delineation and border defence as well as immigration, border management and trade. The issuing of new names is related to Article 7, which calls for promoting border education at all levels of government.

What is behind China's moves?

As with the two previous cases, India rejected the Chinese announcement. "Arunachal Pradesh is, has been, and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India. Attempts to assign invented names will not alter this reality," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

More broadly, the moves from Beijing point to a hardening of its stand on territorial disputes, which are now seen less as matters to be resolved diplomatically and bilaterally, but as questions of China's sovereignty. Besides the renaming, the new border law as well as the new regulations from the State Council all underscore how under current leader Xi Jinping, the protection of national sovereignty and territory has been mandated under various laws. This has also driven more activity along the borders from local-level authorities, such as stepped up programmes to build new civilian settlements (including some that have come up on territory disputed by both Bhutan and India) as well as other border infrastructure.

What will be the impact on the boundary dispute?

Though this symbolic gesture may have little real impact on the ground, it, at the same time, also does reflect how the situation along the borders, described by India as "stable but unpredictable", is the most concerning since the normalisation of ties between India and China in 1988, when they agreed to shelve differences and maintain peace along the boundary. Both sides also took tentative steps towards a permanent settlement, by appointing Special Representatives (SRs) in 2003 to find a solution to the dispute. This was, however, predicated on maintaining peace and tranquillity through a range of mechanisms set up by both sides. China's 2020 transgressions have, however, left those arrangements in tatters. A large number of troops from both sides, for the first time in decades, have been stationed permanently in forward areas. Discussions to disengage have moved slowly, and both are yet to reach an agreement on Demchok and Depsang after having disengaged in four other friction areas.

In the eyes of most observers, the most realistic permanent package settlement is one that would see minor adjustments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in both the western sector, where India sees China as occupying as much as 38,000 sq km in Aksai Chin, and in the eastern sector, where China claims as much as 90,000 sq km in Arunachal. Differences in the middle sector are less complex. The "swap" in the west and east tacitly suggested by then leader Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s was also along these lines.

Beijing, however, has increasingly been vocal about its Arunachal claims and its officials have said any settlement would require India to give up territory in the east, a departure from the Deng suggestion and an unthinkable prospect for any Indian government. The renaming and issuing of "standardised" names by the Chinese government – which has essentially conveyed to the Chinese public that the eastern sector is also non-negotiable for China – has only underlined the hardening Chinese stand, which has left prospects of a settlement dimmer than ever.

Rising tensions: A photo at the Bumla Pass on the India-China border in Arunachal Pradesh, taken in 2012. AFP

Will platforms have to take down 'fake news'?

What will the amendments to the IT Rules, 2021, allow the Press Information Bureau to do on news flagged by the government as misinformation? Will this open up social media companies to legal action? Will online betting and gambling games be completely banned?

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on Thursday amended the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The amendment empowers the Union Government to designate an official fact checker for misinformation and 'fake news', and to regulate the online real money gaming industry, which comprises apps like fantasy sports sites, rummy and poker.

What does the amendment say on fake news?

The fact check unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB), which has been 'debunking' WhatsApp forwards and news articles on Central Government schemes and departments for years, will be notified as the official fact checker for the Union Government. As such, whenever any news is notified as fake, social media companies will lose their "safe harbour" for such content, opening them up to lawsuits or other legal action. Social media companies have traditionally enjoyed legal immunity for content posted by users, as the Information Technology Act, 2000 treats them as intermediaries. Under the IT Rules they lose this status if, among other things, they don't have a grievance officer for India, or don't address user complaints on time. Additionally now, with this amendment, they will lose their safe harbour immunity for posts that have been flagged by the government as misinformation.

The Internet Freedom Foundation calls the amendment 'akin to censorship' and says it is 'legally contentious'

Why has the amendment caused concern?

The government claims to have conducted consultations with stakeholders before notifying this particular part of the amendment. However, organisations like the Editors Guild of India and the Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF) have called the amendment "akin to censorship" and "legally contentious," indicating that they were either not consulted or that their views were not taken into account. The only change made from the draft version on this subject is a technical one recommended by the Department of Legal Affairs. "The fact check unit ... could effectively issue a takedown order to social media platforms and even other intermediaries across the internet stack, potentially bypassing the process statutorily prescribed under Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000," the IFF stated.

Will platforms take down 'fake news'?

Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar argued on Twitter and in a nearly hour-long interaction with journalists on Thursday that this amendment did not constitute censorship, and would only remove social media firms' immunity when they choose to leave 'fake news' that is declared as such. "The notification of these amended rules cement the chilling effect on the fundamental right to speech and expression, particularly on news publishers, journalists, activists, etc," IFF said.

It is unclear how platforms will respond. Generally, U.S. social media firms have been hesitant to be pulled into public confrontations with the Government, preferring to silently comply with takedown notices. Twitter has been an exception, fighting some censorship orders in the Karnataka High Court; under Elon Musk, while the case continues, the platform has been taking down accounts and posts of journalists, politicians and activists upon the Government's requests. Mr. Chandrasekhar's argument – that platforms are free to keep content up even after it is flagged as 'fake news' – relies on social media firms deciding to stand for users' rights over maintaining good relations with the Government. If platforms intend to do so, they have not stated it explicitly.

What does the amendment say on real money online games?

The amendment requires real money gaming services, where users deposit money in expectation of winnings, to get themselves certified as "permissible" by a Self-Regulatory Body (SRB) consisting of experts and industry members. Since decades of constitutional jurisprudence has narrowed down the definition of "betting and gambling," for which administrative authority rests with States, "permissible" real money games would likely be those where the outcome doesn't depend purely on chance. The real money gaming industry, which has battled States in court – often successfully – against wholesale bans, has welcomed this amendment, and indicated that they will comply. Mr. Chandrasekhar said that games that are not declared "permissible" would fall under the "betting and gambling" category, opening them up to restrictions from States where such activities are prohibited.

Will betting and gambling apps be banned?

The government has categorically refused to get into the debate on whether a real money game is one of skill or chance, which is a crucial distinction to legally determine whether an app facilitates betting or gambling. This decision has been left to the SRBs. As such, major fantasy sporting apps and card games that have obtained court orders recognising them as games of skill, may not be impacted. Before passing this amendment, the Union Cabinet amended the Allocation of Business Rules to give the Centre powers to regulate "online gaming".

This amendment may not please State governments. Tamil Nadu, for instance, has unsuccessfully tried three times to prohibit real money online games under the "betting and gambling" label. The latest Bill passed by the State Assembly, which designated poker and rummy as gambling, has been returned by the T.N. governor R.N. Ravi. This interpretation, Mr. Ravi's returning of the Bill indicated, may not pass legal muster, especially now that there is a legal framework to govern them.

GETTY IMAGES

Empire-builders of medieval India

The Mughals

At the peak of their power, Babur's descendants, most of them born and buried in undivided India, controlled the entire subcontinent, comprising parts of modern Afghanistan, the whole of Pakistan, Bangladesh and parts of Myanmar

Ziya Us Salam

Within hours of the National Council of Educational Research and Training's (NCERT) decision to remove a chapter on the Mughals from the history textbooks for Class 12 students, noted historians of the country issued a statement, denouncing the deletions. "The selective dropping of chapters which do not fit into the ideological orientation of the present dispensation exposes the partisan agenda of the regime," a statement signed by Romila Thapar, Irfan Habib, Aditya Mukherjee, Barbara Metcalf, Dilip Simeon, Mridula Mukherjee and others read. "Driven by such an agenda, the chapter titled "Kings and Chronicles: The Mughal Courts" has been deleted... In medieval times, the Mughal empire and the Vijayanagara Empire were two of the most important empires... In the revised version, while the chapter on the Mughals has been deleted, the chapter on the Vijayanagara Empire has been retained."

It's hard to understand the history of modern India without the contribution of the Mughals, who, including Akbar, Jahangir, Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb, were all born in undivided India; and were buried here. None of them ever left the country, not even to go on a pilgrimage to Mecca. "Is there anything in India today which does not owe to the Mughals?" asks Syed Ali Nadeem Rezavi, secretary, Indian History Congress. "From legal system to legal jargon, we owe to the Mughal and Turkish Sultanate before them. Words like *vakalatnama*, *kacheri*, *durbar*, we owe them all to the Mughals. Today, when a large number of Indians consider Lord Ram as a major deity, we have to thank Tulsidas who wrote his version of Ramayana during the Mughal period. Also, Vrindavan, associated with Lord Krishna, developed thanks to Chaitanya saints who were given grants by Akbar, Jahangir and Shahjahan, and helped Vrindavan and Mathura emerge as a key centre of Krishna Bhakti."

ILLUSTRATION: R.RAJESH

It all started with Babur when he defeated Ibrahim Lodi in the First Battle of Panipat in 1526, and went on to capture all of North India in his brief reign of four years. Babur's victory was to usher in a prolonged period of political stability for the next nearly 200 years. His grandson Akbar ruled for almost 50 years, as did Akbar's great grandson Aurangzeb, while his son Jahangir and Shah Jahan ruled for over 20 years each, making sure there was consistency in state policy and the development of the empire was unimpeded. Their influence gradually reduced from 1707 onwards, and the last Mughal, Bahadur Shah Zafar, was only a symbolic leader of the Revolt of 1857. However, in this symbolism lay a message; common Indians, as evidenced by the sipahis' uprising, considered Mughals to be their kings; hence the leadership role to Zafar.

This was a throwback to the golden era of the Great Mughals; the latter Mughals, post-1707, had done nothing to earn that kind of trust. Aurangzeb's prolonged battles in the Deccan had enfeebled the state's finances, and his successors were unable to replenish the treasury. To augment resources, Aurangzeb had imposed *jizyah*, a tax solely on non-Muslims, which proved detrimental in the long run. Once Aurangzeb passed away in 1707, his successors proved incapable of ruling over a huge, unwieldy empire. Their internecine battles didn't help. Many like Mohammed Shah Rangeela were given to a life of debauchery. Add to that the gradual advance of East India Company in India and the latter Mughals proved unequal to the task of defending their empire. It all came to a sad end with the banishment of Zafar to Rangoon after the 1857 revolt.

The beginning

It started more promisingly. A descendant of Timur and Genghis Khan, Babur, who knew Turkish and Persian, started the practice of chronicling the events and noting down his impressions of the landscape and the artists he met. He thus authored a unique document *Baburnama*, originally in Turkish which was later translated into Persian. Not just *Baburnama*, the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Upanishads were also translated during the Mughal era. "The first translations of texts like the Ramayana and Mahabharata in any language from Sanskrit was done under the Mughals. Dara Shukoh translated 25 Upanishads into Persian. He also translated Yogavashishta," says Mr. Rezavi.

Incidentally, Shukoh, the man who never became the king, was way ahead of the times. Eldest son of Shah Jahan, he was a Sunni Muslim who associated closely with Hindu philosophers and Christian priests. He was, as Vincent Smith wrote in the *Oxford History of India*, "deeply imbued with the pantheistic mysticism of the Sufis".

Shukoh clearly inherited all this from Jalaluddin Akbar, the Emperor who built Ibadat Khana where scholarly debates were held between Brahmins, Christians, Jain, Buddhist and Islamic scholars. It was a move way ahead of the time when one thinks until then the religion of the Emperor was supposed to be religion of the kingdom. The modern Ganga-Jamuni *tehzeeb* stems from that shared feeling, a synthesis of different cultures. The philosophical discussions during the time of Akbar and his son Jahangir led to intermingling among commoners. In Mughal India, Hindus and Muslims lived cheek by jowl in the same locality. The respect extended to places of worship. Often land grants for temples were made by the Mughal emperors; even the much maligned Aurangzeb, who demolished temples, issued grants.

Vast empire

By the end of the reign of Akbar, the population of the Mughal kingdom exceeded that of entire Europe, and the Mughal wealth was unmatched. As Mr. Rezavi put it, "Today, there is talk of Akhand Bharat. This was a reality under the Mughals who controlled the entire subcontinent comprising parts of modern Afghanistan, the entire Pakistan, Bangladesh and parts of Myanmar, the land mass from Sindh to knocking distance of Kanniyakumari and even parts of Assam was under Aurangzeb for a few years. Shah Jahan was the first Indian ruler after Ashoka to reach Balkh and Badakshan. There was no mightier empire in the world."

The richness was owed substantially to the Rajputs, who were sharers of power from the time of Akbar, who defeated Rana Pratap in the Battle of Haldighati, and co-opted them in his empire through matrimonial alliances. Most Mughal rulers after Jahangir were born to Rajput women. As a result, within the family, Hindavi was often the language of communication. Aurangzeb, incidentally, conversed in Hindi and composed in Braj bhasha.

Today, when a hue and cry is raised if a Muslim enacts a Hindu hero in cinema, it's important to remember that during the time of the Mughals, Raskhan wrote of Krishna in Hindi and Balkrishan Brahman in Persian. It was a time of synthesis: Hindu practices were adopted to commemorate Imam Hussain and the concept of triple dome mosque architecture, popularised by the Mughals, is uniquely Indian. Just like the Mughals.

THE GIST

- It all started with Babur when he defeated Ibrahim Lodi in the First Battle of Panipat in 1526, and went on to capture all of North India in his brief reign of four years
- His grandson Akbar ruled for almost 50 years, as did Akbar's great grandson Aurangzeb while son Jahangir and grandson Shah Jahan ruled for over 20 years each
- Their influence gradually reduced from 1707 onwards, and the last Mughal, Bahadur Shah Zafar, was only a symbolic leader of the Revolt of 1857

Monarch with a mission

Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

Bhutan's fifth King is aiming for his country's 'transformation' through a new educational curriculum, governance reforms and connectivity and infrastructure projects

Suhasini Haidar

On a cold but sunny day last December, Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the fifth King of the current line of Dragon Kings, stepped up on to the stage at Thimphu's Changlimithang stadium to address the nation, the first such public address since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. "We fought an unknown and unpredictable enemy. I can now safely say that we have won the war," the 42-year-old King said in Dzongkha. Deviating to English, the King then delivered a strong message on drugs and alcohol addiction, addressing Bhutan's youth in particular. "This is a challenge we have to face. This is a reality we have to face. Failure is not an option. We have to address this," he said, looking straight at the audience.

It was this challenge, of a social ill borne of the lack of economic opportunities, that brought the Bhutanese King to India last week. In meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and interactions with Indian CEOs and others around the world, he is seeking new global investment to power his plans for Bhutan's "transformation". Among the plans, powering his 'Desuung' programme (Guardians of Peace) for youth volunteers, a new educational curriculum called the Bhutan Baccalaureate, a slew of governance and bureaucratic reforms, bolstering Bhutan's environmental agenda with a new Tourism policy that imposes $200 a day sustainable development fee (₹1,200 for Indians), and plans for a new connectivity and digital technology hub along Bhutan's southern borders with India in a town called Gelephu, where its second international airport is coming up.

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Unusual tasks

Clearly, the tasks King Jigme Khesar sets himself are unusual for a monarch in any part of the world, where royalty is normally associated with a life of comfort and protocol, pressing the flesh and posing for photographs. What drives the fifth King, say most analysts in Bhutan, is the desire to fill the shoes the fourth King, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, famous for the concept of "Gross National Happiness" (GNH), left for him when he abdicated from the throne in 2006. The abdication was met with public sorrow, and for a while the population balked at the next step the former King took, to turn Bhutan into a functional democracy and constitutional monarchy. Such reforms are normally wrought by revolutions, as in the case of neighbouring Nepal, not by the incumbent monarch, then just 51, himself.

While much about the royal family speaks of tradition and reverence for history, the Bhutanese King was educated in the ways of the modern world – after high school in Bhutan, he went to the U.S. to complete his schooling and then went to college at Oxford University in the U.K. For about a year in 2005, as Crown Prince of Bhutan, he took courses at the Indian Military Academy in Delhi, learning lessons in statecraft and warfare – a period that was significant, as it preceded his father's decision to step down and hand over power to him.

As King, Jigme Khesar has had to use the lessons he may have learnt very quickly. During his reign, Bhutan has gone from having diplomatic ties with just 21 countries, to 54 today. Bhutan still does not maintain full diplomatic ties with any permanent member of the UNSC, but there is constant pressure to change that. The 2017 military stand-off between India and China at Doklam was a big challenge for the Bhutanese government, and while there were no public statements, both the fourth and fifth Kings of Bhutan are understood to have been involved in deftly handling the tricky relations with both neighbours.

Boundary talks with China that began in 1984 have made considerable progress, which could have repercussions for India in Doklam, and will possibly need more nimble diplomatic footwork by Bhutan of the kind seen last week. Above all, King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck's task will be in ensuring a strong GDP and a strong GNH, so that as his country opens its doors wider, its people aren't buffeted by both internal and external winds.

A consensus-builder

Petteri Orpo

The rightwing leader, who campaigned largely on economic issues, has emerged as the frontrunner for PM while Sanna Marin's ruling coalition was voted out by Finnish voters

G. Sampath

Finland is all set to get a new Prime Minister. In the elections held on April 2, the centre-right National Coalition Party came out on top with a 20.8% vote share and 48 of the 200 parliamentary seats. The far-right anti-immigration Finns Party came second with 20.1% of the vote and 46 seats, while the incumbent Social Democrats, led by Prime Minister Sanna Marin, finished third with 19.9% of the vote and 43 seats.

Finland has a political tradition whereby the largest party gets the first chance to form the government. With the NCP emerging as the largest, it will, under the leadership of Petteri Orpo, 53, attempt to from a coalition government. If Mr. Orpo succeeds, he could be Finland's next Prime Minister.

The elections were dominated by debates over the economy. Mr. Orpo led a powerful campaign against the left-leaning Ms. Marin's social democratic policies. With the Finnish economy yet to recover from the shocks administered by the pandemic, Ms. Marin sought to invest in employment creation by raising taxes on the affluent. But Mr. Orpo, a self-styled fiscal conservative, played on Finnish fears about rising public debt, which had spiked to 70% of the GDP since Ms. Marin became PM in 2019. He campaigned on a plank of reducing government debt through spending cuts and reviving the economy with lower income tax rates.

Given these sharply contrasting approaches to economic policy, a coalition between the NCP and the Social Democrats looks unlikely. Mr. Orpo, as the lead negotiator, is expected to first hold talks with the Finns Party. But here too, he would need to manage the sharp differences between the two parties on immigration. While the NCP favours immigration to address labour shortages, the Finns Party wants tighter borders.

Relatively low profile compared to the more flamboyant Ms. Marin, Mr. Orpo hails from a political family, with his father too being a member of the NCP. A post-graduate in political science, he has built a steady career in public life, serving out stints as Minister of the Interior, Finance Minister, and Deputy PM under other, more popular leaders. Known as a backroom consensus-builder, he led a revolt in May 2016 to unseat the then NCP chair and Finance Minister Alexander Stubb and succeeded, replacing him as Finance Minister in June 2016.

Ailing economy

While the ailing economy – which has also suffered from diminished exports to Russia – has been a major factor in the Social Democrats' dip in popularity, Mr. Orpo also built a narrative about Ms. Marin's seeming lack of seriousness. Leaked videos of Ms. Marin dancing exuberantly at a private party made their way into social media and became fodder for the Opposition. Mr. Orpo, in contrast, presented himself as a workaday politician who knew what to do to bring the Finnish economy back on track.

On foreign policy, Mr. Orpo has announced there will be no change: Finland, as the latest European nation to join NATO, will continue to strongly support Ukraine and oppose Russia in the ongoing war.

It's evident that enough voters have bought Mr. Orpo's line that Ms. Marin's spending on pensions and education was unwise at a time when rising energy costs were straining public finances. But Finland has dallied with austerity before. Attempts by Prime Minister Juha Sipila, who helmed a centre-right coalition from 2015 to 2019, to revive the economy by lowering Finnish wage costs and cutting the education Budget proved a disaster. But Finns seem to have forgotten recent history.

With tectonic changes such as war in the neighbourhood, accession to NATO, and the economy in doldrums, it is perhaps not unexpected that the Finns, too, like electorates elsewhere, have turned to a rightwing nationalist leader. If Mr. Orpo forms a government with the Finns Party, it would mark a decisive rightward shift in Finnish politics. At the same time, Ms. Marin's loss is a blow to the European Left, which will need to introspect on the failure of its most charismatic politician to communicate effectively with voters.

INBRIEF

REC raises $750 million through green bonds

State-owned non-banking finance firm REC Ltd. has raised $750 million through issuance of green bonds. These bonds will mature on April 11, 2028, and all principal and interest payments will be made in U.S. dollars. The net proceeds from the issue of these bonds will be used to finance, in whole or in part, eligible green projects, REC stated. The bonds will be listed on Global Securities Market of India International Exchange (India INX) and NSE IFSC. PTI

Temasek said to add 41% in Manipal Health for ₹16,500 cr.

Singapore government-owned fund Temasek Holdings is believed to have acquired an additional 41% stake in Manipal Health Enterprises for about ₹16,500 crore to secure majority control in the Bengaluru-based firm. Temasek Holdings-backed Sheares Health, which already holds 18% in Manipal, is acquiring the stake valuing the healthcare chain at about ₹40,000 crore, making it the largest deal in the Indian healthcare sector, sources said. PTI

Tesla hit with class action lawsuit over 'privacy intrusion'

A California Tesla owner sued the electric carmaker in a prospective class action lawsuit accusing it of violating the privacy of customers. The lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California came after Reuters reported that groups of Tesla staff privately shared sometimes highly invasive videos and images recorded by customers' car cameras between 2019 and 2022. REUTERS

Global headwinds to slow India's GDP growth: Parekh

India has enough tailwinds in terms of a robust domestic consumption-based economy, political stability, vaccine security, digitisation, robust regulatory system, says HDFC chairman

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Global headwinds are likely to slow down India's GDP growth, but the country is more resilient than many large economies, HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh said on Saturday.

India has enough tailwinds with political stability, vaccine security, food security, a robust domestic consumption-based economy, digitisation initiatives and a robust regulatory system for the financial sector, Parekh said at SPJIMR's Centre for Family Business and Entrepreneurship (CFBE) event.

Turbulent times

HDFC chairman sees India as being more resilient than many other major economies to cope with global challenges

- Cites political stability, food security and robust regulatory system for financial sector as key positives
- Says geopolitics has dominated geoeconomics in recent times with spillover impacts on trade, capital flows and even labour force mobility
- Observes there is immense distrust among countries when global cooperation is most needed to tackle global warming, cyber threats

"India is not immune to the global shocks but has proved to be more resilient than many large economies. For sure, India's GDP growth will slow down because of global headwinds," he said.

"In the recent period, geopolitics has dominated over geoeconomics with spillover impacts on trade, services, technology, capital flows and even in" labour force mobility.

"There is immense distrust amongst countries at a time when we most need global cooperation to solve common pressing issues like global supply chains, global warming, cyber threats," he said.

World Bank could lend $50bn more with reform: Yellen

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Janet Yellen

The World Bank's ongoing reform could result in a $50 billion lending boost over the next decade, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told AFP ahead of stakeholders' meetings where key changes are expected to be announced.

Central bankers, finance ministers and participants from more than 180 member countries are expected to gather in the U.S. capital for the International Monetary Fund and World Bank's spring meetings in the coming week.

A key topic of discussion will be the World Bank's evolution, amid a push for lenders to revamp and meet global challenges like climate change. The U.S. is the largest shareholder of the World Bank Group.

"I expect there to be an update of the bank's mission to add building resilience against climate change, pandemics, and conflict and fragility to the core goals," Ms. Yellen said in the interview with AFP.

She added that there needs to be a recognition that these challenges aren't separate or conflicting but rather, inextricably linked.

"Second, there will be an announcement that the bank is stretching its financial capacity to meet these objectives, and adopting changes or endorsing changes that could result in an additional $50 billion in extra lending capacity over the next decade," Ms. Yellen said.

The move would be a significant resource boost marking a 20% rise in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development's (IBRD's) sustainable lending level.

Ms. Yellen also said there would be an announcement on updating the bank's operational model to "orient it towards the goals that we're setting."

Among other things, this includes creating more incentives for the mobilisation of both domestic and private capital.

Greaves Cotton to acquire Excel Controlinkage

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Greaves Cotton Ltd., a diversified engineering company, said it has entered into a definitive agreement for the multi-tranche acquisition of Excel Controlinkage Private Ltd.

In the first tranche, Greaves Cotton will acquire 60% of the shareholding from existing shareholders.

The aim is to combine Greaves' motor controller line of business with Excel's electronic sensors.

Luxury car sales to rise as more Indians turn wealthy: Lexus's Soni

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

India has great potential to significantly expand its luxury car market as the country, being a segmented market, now offers multiple consumer segments to tap into, said Naveen Soni, President, Lexus India, the luxury car arm of the Japanese automaker Toyota.

"More people are becoming rich in our country. Plus, India is targeting a $5 trillion economy by 2030 and if that happens, wealth distribution will become broader as well.

Naveen Soni

All these will boost the lifestyle sector and significantly drive sales of luxury cars," Mr. Soni said in an interview.

Moreover, the country has a segmented market and therefore different customer categories were available here for luxury car makers to tap into, he said. Mr. Soni further said that to scale up the luxury segment, the government should make a long-term roadmap on taxation available instead of allowing knee-jerk reactions.

"If the industry has to be moved from one particular tax regime to another, a more liberal one, there should be a road map of 4 to 6 years. Also, environment-friendly technologies should be promoted with better taxation. For instance, maybe the government should introduce a carbon-based taxation system," he said.

India's 'protectionist' aviaton policy will force consumers to pay higher airfares: IATA's Walsh

Jagriti Chandra
GENEVA

India's reluctance to revise bilateral seat allocations for international flights despite demands from some countries reflects an "old protectionist India" that could result in others retaliating and restricting access for Indian airlines which in turn would hamper India's ambition to develop a global airport hub, cautioned Willie Walsh, the Director General of global airlines body IATA.

Willie Walsh

"With the ambition to expand will come the need to allow more competition into India but you are not going to get the response from other countries if you have a restricted bilateral. Other countries will restrict capacity as well," Mr. Walsh said in an interview at IATA's Geneva headquarters.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) represents 300 airlines globally. Mr. Walsh's comments come at a time when airlines such as Emirates and Turkish Airlines have demanded a revision of bilateral rights. Emirates CEO Tim Clarke said recently that India's reluctance to allow Gulf carriers more flights into India could result in losses of $800-$900 million for Indian airlines who would be deprived of reciprocal rights. Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has ruled out a revision of bilateral seat allocations.

Mr. Walsh said that the demand from various airlines such as Emirates and Qatar for additional seats or flights within the bilateral agreements were due to "demand for air travel significantly outstripping the services available," and therefore the ultimate loser would be the consumers who are forced to pay higher airfares because of fewer flights. He rued that the government's policy reflected "old protectionist India" which didn't have a national airline that was capable of competing at a global scale.

"People should be more confident and believe that Air India is capable of competing on a level playing field." He said the potential for growth in India was massive and though its domestic market was at third place, after U.S. and China, it only accounted for 2% of global revenue passenger kilometres. *(Read the full interview at bit.ly/williewalsh)*

FM to host G20 in U.S., attend IMF, WB meetings

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will be leaving for the U.S. to attend the Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund along with G20.

During her week-long trip, she will be hosting the second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting under India's G20 Presidency, the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

'Rolls-Royce keen to partner India for developing combat engines with IP rights'

U.K. government and company working together very closely to develop small modular reactors, a clean energy solution which can combat climate change by delivering cost-competitive, scalable net zero power for multiple applications, says the firm's India, South Asia president

INTERVIEW

Kishore Jayaraman

Lalatendu Mishra

In February, Tata's Air India placed an order for 840 aircraft, including 40 A350-900/1000 aircraft from Airbus. With this, Rolls-Royce bagged its biggest-ever order for Trent XWB-97 engines which will power the A350-1000 aircraft. The Trent XWB-84 engines will power the Airbus A350-900s, says India & South Asia president Kishore Jayaraman. Excerpts:

How significant is Air India's engine order for Rolls Royce as a firm?

It is a very significant part of Rolls Royce, it is the largest-of-its-kind order for Rolls Royce anywhere globally. It is the largest widebody order in India by far.

This is the first time that an Indian airline has ordered the Trent XWB [engines] and the deal will make Air India the largest operator of the Trent XWB -97 in the world.

With a 15% fuel consumption advantage over the first generation Trent engine, the Trent XWB goes further on less fuel, and offers leading performance and noise levels. It is also ready to operate on a 50% sustainable aviation fuel blend.

How are you gearing up to execute the order?

We received an order from Air India for 68 Trent XWB-97 engines, plus options for 20 more. Air India has also ordered 12 Trent XWB-84, engines, the sole engine option for the Airbus A350-900. These are in the production factory. Six aircraft need to be delivered before the end of this year. So, we'll have to make sure that engines are in place before that.

Are you reducing the carbon footprint?

It's a good question. We have signed up to the U.N. Net Zero chapter, so by 2050, we will be net zero, all our products, all our services, all our factories, everything we do will be net zero. That's Rolls Royce's promise. This year it is going to be sustainable alternative fuels (SAF). All our products will be SAF compatible by 2023.

We flew the first electric aircraft, it reached a speed limit of about 350 miles per hour, a speed record. For an all-electric [aircraft], we are looking at battery technology.

Rolls-Royce Trent 1000 engines will power the first-ever net zero transatlantic flight from the U.K. this year using 100% SAF.

How is Rolls-Royce contributing to India?

Ours is the original Make-in-India story which started over 60 years ago with Rolls-Royce partnering with HAL for whole engine technology transfer, and Rolls-Royce engines have been manufactured in India since then. We continue to build on this relationship to deliver service excellence and supply chain capabilities.

Rolls-Royce is keen to partner India for combat engine development with a co-creation model that ensures Intellectual Property (IP) for this critical technology is created and owned in India. With technological know-how resting within the country, India could position itself as a strong supplier to the global market.

What is the next big thing happening?

When we talk about climate change, Small Modular Reactors play a very important role. The U.K. government and Rolls-Royce are working together very closely to develop a product, which would be approximately 400 megawatts. I think that's the future of sustainable power generation.

(Read the full interview at https://bit.ly/3mdAjjR)

APPOINTMENT

आरईसी REC
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REC Limited (A Government of India Enterprise)
CIN: L40101DL1969GOI005095 | GST: 06AAACR4512R3Z3

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN REC LIMITED-A MAHARATNA COMPANY

REC limited is a Maharatna Public Sector Enterprise and a well-acclaimed Non-Banking Financial Company endowed with 'Infrastructure Finance' Company status. To meet its human resource requirements, REC invites applications for the following posts:

Sl. No.	Name of the post/ Grade & IDA Pay Scale (w.e.f. 01.01.2017)	Number of Posts (Reserved for)*
Engineering Discipline		
1.	General Manager (Engineering)/ E-8/₹1,20,000-2,80,000	02 (UR)
2.	Manager (Engineering)/ E-5/₹80,000-2,20,000	02 (UR: 01, EWS: 01)
3.	Deputy Manager (Engineering)/ E-4/₹70,000-2,00,000	02 (UR: 01, EWS: 01)
4.	Assistant Manager (Engineering)/ E-3/₹60,000-1,80,000	02 (UR: 01, ST: 01)
5.	Officer (Engineering)/ E-2/₹50,000-1,60,000	53 (UR: 21, OBC: 15, SC: 08, ST: 03, EWS: 06)
Finance & Accounts (F&A) Discipline		
6.	Dy. General Manager (F&A)/ E-7/₹1,00,000-2,60,000	02 (UR: 01, ST: 01)
7.	Manager (F&A)/ E-5/₹80,000-2,20,000	01 (UR)
8.	Officer (F&A)/ E-2/₹50,000-1,60,000	34 (UR: 15, OBC: 09, SC: 05, ST: 02, EWS: 03)
Human Resource (HR) Discipline		
9.	Assistant Manager (HR)/ E-3/₹60,000-1,80,000	01 (UR)
Information Technology (IT) Discipline		
10.	Manager (IT)/ E-5/₹80,000-2,20,000	01 (UR)
11.	Deputy Manager (IT)/ E-4/₹70,000-2,00,000	03 (UR: 02, OBC: 01)
12.	Assistant Manager (IT)/ E-3/₹60,000-1,80,000	03 (UR: 01, OBC: 01, ST: 01)
13.	Officer (IT)/ E-2/₹50,000-1,60,000	02 (UR)
Corporate Communications (CC) Discipline		
14.	General Manager (CC)/ E-8/₹1,20,000-2,80,000	01 (UR)
15.	Deputy Manager (CC)/ E-4/₹70,000-2,00,000	01 (UR)
16.	Assistant Manager (CC)/ E-3/₹60,000-1,80,000	01 (OBC)
17.	Officer (CC)/ E-2/₹50,000-1,60,000	01 (UR)
Company Secretariat Discipline		
18.	Chief Manager (CS)/ E-6/₹90,000-2,40,000	01 (UR)
19.	Officer (CS)/ E-2/₹50,000-1,60,000	01 (UR)
Law Discipline		
20.	Manager (Law)/ E-5/₹80,000-2,20,000	01 (UR)
21.	Officer (Law)/ E-2/₹50,000-1,60,000	02 (UR)
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Discipline		
22.	Officer (CSR)/ E-2/₹50,000-1,60,000	01 (UR)
Administration & Liaison Discipline		
23.	Assistant Officer (Administration & Liaison)/ E-0/₹30,000- 1,20,000	03 (UR: 02, OBC: 01)
Secretarial Discipline		
24.	Assistant Officer (Secretarial)/ E-0/₹30,000- 1,20,000	02 (UR)
Rajbhasha Discipline		
25.	Officer (Rajbhasha)/ E-2/₹50,000-1,60,000	01 (UR)
26.	Assistant Officer (Rajbhasha)/ E-0/₹30,000-1,20,000	01 (UR)

* Including backlog vacancies as under: DGM (F&A)-01 ST, AM (Eng.)-01 ST, AM (IT)-01 OBC-NCL & 01 ST, Officer (F&A)- 01 OBC-NCL & 01 SC

From the posts indicated from Sl. No 1 to 26 in the table above, 03 posts are reserved for Category a), 03 posts are reserved for Category b), 01 post is reserved for Category c) and 02 posts are reserved for Category d) and e) of PwBD.

Legend: UR: Unreserved; OBC-NCL: Other Backward Classes– Non-Creamy Layer; SC: Scheduled Caste; ST: Scheduled Tribe; EWS: Economically Weaker Section.

Those interested should visit 'Careers tab' on www.recindia.nic.in for further details regarding age, qualification, experience, reservation etc. and for applying. Last date for receipt of online application is 15th April 2023 by 11:55 pm.

EXTRA STRENGTH

All-rounders' role not threatened by Impact Player rule, feels Miller

The Impact Player rule does not "threaten" the role of all-rounders and instead provides teams with extra strength, said Gujarat Titans batter David Miller on Saturday. "Not necessarily threatened. I think the fact that you've got the choice to have the extra batter or the extra bowler just gives extra strength to the team."

SOUL-SEARCHING

Coach Ponting confounded by Delhi Capitals' woes

Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting said he can't figure out what is going wrong with his side, as it lost to Rajasthan Royals, for its third-successive defeat on Saturday. "We are a long way off right now. I can't put my finger on why. When I watch these boys prepare, their work has been great. We need to do a little soul-searching."

DYNAMIC DECISION

Impact Player rule provides lot of options for a team: Bharat Arun

Kolkata Knight Riders bowling coach Bharat Arun felt that the Impact Player rule provides a lot of options for a team. "It's got to be a dynamic decision, one we have to take on the go. In our case, we would be excited to go with three mystery spinners (Sunil Narine, Varun Chakravarthy and Suyash Sharma, *in pic*)," said Arun.

CONFIDENT

Pujara excited to be back among runs, says hard work 'paying off'

Cheteshwar Pujara is excited to be back among the runs with a century in his county season-opener for Sussex. "Things which I've been working on is paying off," Pujara said after his 163-ball 115, his sixth hundred for Sussex. "As a batter, when you start well, you feel confident. I hope to keep scoring runs," he said.

Rahane lights up Wankhede after Jadeja's heroics

The former smashes the fastest half-century of the season as Super Kings cruise home; the left-arm spinner stifles Mumbai Indians with a spell of 4-0-20-3 and also takes a sensational return catch

IPL-16

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Mumbai Indians obviously had the home advantage.

But it was Ajinkya Rahane's return to his hometown that turned out to be decisive during the most sought-after Indian Premier League clash of the season.

Making his debut in Chennai Super Kings colours, Rahane's sensational 27-ball 61 helped Super Kings cruise to the target of 158 at the Wankhede Stadium here on Saturday.

Rahane's knock, which saw him register a 19-ball fifty, the fastest of the season, also ensured that Ravindra Jadeja and Mitchell Santner's effective work with the ball did not go waste.

Stokes, Moeen out

After Ben Stokes and Moeen Ali were ruled out of the game, Super Kings played Rahane at the top of the order.

And the veteran batter had to take guard in the opening over of the chase as Devon Conway played on to Jason Behrendorff off the fourth ball.

Rahane pulled Behrendorff for a six in the third over to begin his innings with a bang.

New mindset

When the Mumbai batter went after rookie left-arm pacer Arshad Khan in the next over, it was clear that he had come with a new mindset and an aggressive approach.

Rahane plundered 23 in that over, virtually closing the door on Mumbai Indians. None of Rahane's five consecutive boundary hits – a six followed by four fours – was a slog, the last-ball punch past the bowler being the highlight.

After Rahane was caught in the deep off leg-spinner Piyush Chawla, the in-form Ruturaj Gaikwad came to the party as Super Kings reached the target with 11 balls to spare.

The win was set up by the left-arm spin duo of Jadeja and Santner whose combined figures of 8-0-48-5 ensured that Mumbai Indians couldn't run away with the game despite the brisk start by Ishan Kishan.

With Moeen unavailable and Deepak Chahar limping off the field after the opening over, the onus was on the experienced spin duo to deliver.

And the pair did it to perfection, with Jadeja playing the star act. He came up with a stunning effort to send back Cameron Green, taking a scorcher off his own bowling.

The team effort shown while taking the catch of Tristan Stubbs reflected Super Kings' day.

Dwaine Pretorius took the catch at long-off but as he was about to go past the boundary, the South African relayed the ball to Ruturaj. It indeed was a day to cherish for Super Kings.

Catching on! Pretorious takes the ball on the long-off fence before relaying it to Ruturaj once he realises he is about to cross the boundary. Such efforts energised Rahane who played a stunner. K.R. DEEPAK

Points Table

	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	3	2	1	4	2.067
Lucknow Super Giants	3	2	1	4	1.358
Gujarat Titans	2	2	0	4	0.700
Chennai Super Kings	3	2	1	4	0.356
Punjab Kings	2	2	0	4	0.333
Kolkata Knight Riders	2	1	1	2	2.056
Royal Challengers Bangalore	2	1	1	2	-1.256
Mumbai Indians	2	0	2	0	-1.394
Delhi Capitals	3	0	3	0	-2.092
Sunrisers Hyderabad	2	0	2	0	-2.867

After the MI-CSK match on April 8

As agile as ever: Dhoni moves swiftly down the leg-side to pouch Suryakumar's offering. K.R DEEPAK

SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS
Rohit Sharma b Deshpande 21 *(13b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Ishan Kishan c Pretorius b Jadeja 32 *(21b, 5x4)*, Cameron Green c & b Jadeja 12 *(11b, 1x4)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Dhoni b Santner 1 *(2b)*, Tilak Varma lbw b Jadeja 22 *(18b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Arshad Khan lbw b Santner 2 *(4b)*, Tim David c Rahane b Deshpande 31 *(22b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Tristan Stubbs c Ruturaj b Magala 5 *(10b)*, Hrithik Shokeen (not out) 18 *(13b, 3x4)*, Piyush Chawla (not out) 5 *(6b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-5): 8; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 157.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-38 (Rohit, 3.6 overs), 2-64 (Kishan, 6.4), 3-67 (Suryakumar, 7.2), 4-73 (Green, 8.2), 5-76 (Arshad, 9.1), 6-102 (Tilak, 12.6), 7-113 (Stubbs, 15.6), 8-131 (David, 16.6).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING
Deepak Chahar 1-0-10-0, Deshpande 3-0-31-2, Magala 4-0-37-1, Santner 4-0-28-2, Jadeja 4-0-20-3, Pretorius 4-0-28-0.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
Devon Conway b Behrendorff 0 *(4b)*, Ruturaj Gaikwad (not out) 40 *(36b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Ajinkya Rahane c Suryakumar b Chawla 61 *(27b, 7x4, 3x6)*, Shivam Dube b Kartikeya 28 *(26b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Ambati Rayudu **(Impact Player in place of Chahar)** (not out) 20 *(16b, 3x4)*; Extras (lb-4, w-6): 10; Total (for three wkts. in 18.1 overs): 159.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Conway, 0.4), 2-82 (Rahane, 7.6), 3-125 (Dube, 14.2).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Behrendorff 3-0-24-1, Arshad 2.1-0-35-0, Green 3-0-20-0, Chawla 4-0-33-1, Kartikeya **(Impact Player in place of David)** 4-0-24-1, Shokeen 2-0-19-0.

Toss: Super Kings; **PoM:** Jadeja.
Super Kings won by seven wickets with 11 deliveries to spare.

Next assignment

MI: April 11 vs. DC
Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

CSK: April 12 vs. RR
Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

Buttler, Jaiswal and Boult fashion Rajasthan Royals' clinical victory

Pranay Rajiv
GUWAHATI

Rajasthan Royals produced a clinical all-round performance as it beat Delhi Capitals by 57 runs and bounce back to winning ways in IPL-16 at the Barsapara Stadium here on Saturday.

Capitals were outplayed for most of the game as they fell to a third straight defeat while Royals finished their 'home run' with a victory.

Royals' win was set up by a solid batting show from openers Yashasvi Jaiswal (60) and Jos Buttler (79) which was backed up by a fiery Trent Boult and spin twins R. Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal.

Boult struck twice in the first over – for a record-extending fourth time in the IPL – to rock Capitals' chase, which failed to kick on, mostly because of a slow-paced fifty from skipper David Warner.

After being sent in, Jaiswal and Buttler began in top gear, with the former smashing Khaleel Ahmed for five boundaries to gather 20 runs in the opening over.

Jaiswal dominated the stand as he raced to his fifty off 25 balls. The openers dealt mostly in boundaries as Royals gathered 68 runs in the PowerPlay. The left-hander's entertaining knock came to an end when he fended a Mukesh Kumar bouncer back to the bowler.

Capitals nudged their way back into the game in the middle overs with tight bowling as Royals lost skipper Sanju Samson and Riyan Parag cheaply.

Buttler and Shimron Hetmyer led the revival with their power-hitting and powered Royals to 199, a total that proved beyond the reach of the struggling Capitals. After Boult's first-over double-strike, Capitals' pursuit was reeled in by R. Ashwin and Chahal's guile as Rajasthan recorded its second win of the season.

Power play: Buttler and Jaiswal got Royals off to a flying start, scoring 68 in the first six overs. RITU RAJ KONWAR

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c & b Mukesh 60 *(31b, 11x4, 1x6)*, Jos Buttler c & b Mukesh 79 *(51b, 11x4, 1x6)*, Sanju Samson c Nortje b Kuldeep 0 *(4b)*, Riyan Parag b Powell 7 *(11b)*, Shimron Hetmyer (not out) 39 *(21b, 1x4, 4x6)*, Dhruv Jurel (not out) 8 *(3b, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-4): 6; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 199.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-98 (Jaiswal, 8.3 overs), 2-103 (Samson, 9.5), 3-126 (Parag, 13.5), 4-175 (Buttler, 18.3).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Khaleel 2-0-31-0, Nortje 4-0-44-0, Mukesh 4-0-36-2, Axar 4-0-38-0, Kuldeep 4-0-31-1, Powell 2-0-18-1.

DELHI CAPITALS
Prithvi Shaw **(Impact Player in place of Khaleel)** c Samson b Boult 0 *(3b)*, David Warner lbw b Chahal 65 *(55b, 7x4)*, Manish Pandey lbw b Boult 0 *(1b)*, Rilee Rossouw c Jaiswal b R. Ashwin 14 *(12b, 2x4)*, Lalit Yadav b Boult 38 *(24b, 5x4)*, Axar Patel st. Samson b Chahal 2 *(6b)*, Rovman Powell c Hetmyer b R. Ashwin 2 *(2b)*, Abishek Porel c Hetmyer b Chahal 7 *(9b, 1x4)*, Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 3 *(7b)*, Anrich Nortje b Sandeep 0 *(1b)*, Mukesh Kumar (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (lb-2, nb-1, w-7): 10; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 142.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Prithvi, 0.3), 2-0 (Manish, 0.4), 3-36 (Rossouw, 5.4), 4-100 (Lalit, 12.6), 5-111 (Axar, 14.5), 6-118 (Powell, 15.3), 7-138 (Porel, 18.2), 8-139 (Warner, 18.6), 9-140 (Nortje, 19.2).

ROYALS BOWLING
Boult 4-1-29-3, Sandeep 4-0-20-1, R. Ashwin 4-0-25-2, Holder 3-0-28-0, Chahal 4-0-27-3, M. Ashwin **(Impact Player in place of Buttler)** 1-0-11-0.

Toss: Capitals; **PoM:** Jaiswal.
Rajasthan Royals won by 57 runs.

Next assignment

DC: April 11 vs. MI
Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

RR: April 12 vs. CSK
Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

Knight Riders face Gujarat Titans, seek to build on the positives

Both teams have been robust with their death bowling but the visitors might edge ahead with a potent spin attack that could deny the hosts a third straight win by employing a spin-choke tactic yet again

Top gun: Shubman Gill will look to put up a stellar performance with the bat against his former franchise. VIJAY SONEJI

IPL-16

Ayan Acharya
AHMEDABAD

KKR's spin trio of Narine, Varun and Suyash had scripted a big win for the side against RCB

Rashid's face-off with Russell could be decisive

Gujarat Titans will eye its third consecutive IPL 2023 win when it faces Kolkata Knight Riders at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday. KKR, having had a shaky start to this year's competition, reeled off an 81-run win against RCB.

Few positives

There were a few positives for the Kolkata side, with Shardul Thakur and Rinku Singh among the runs.

A stable batter at No. 3 is still a concern but Jason Roy's arrival will be a big boost.

KKR blended right and left-handers – three apiece in the top six – against RCB, a combination that should lend flexibility in tackling Rashid Khan.

Rashid has dismissed left-handers 44 times in the IPL at 6.55 and right-handers 73 times at 6.30.

His face-off with Russell could be decisive; he has dismissed him four times in T20 cricket and conceded 54 off 38.

Commendable job

Meanwhile, Sai Sudharsan has done a commendable job filling the gap left by Kane Williamson at No. 3 for Gujarat.

Both teams have been robust in death bowling, conceding less than 10 runs between overs 17 and 20 so far.

KKR's potent spin department, comprising Sunil Narine, Varun Chakravarthy and Suyash Sharma, would perhaps discourage the Titans from using a black-soil deck that turns and stops – one of the many advantages of the home-and-away format, where teams can tailor the pitches at home to challenge the visiting teams.

TODAY'S MATCHES

GT vs KKR	SRH vs PBKS
Ahmedabad, 3.30 p.m.	Hyderabad, 7.30 P.M.
HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 1	Played: 20
GT 1 | KKR 0	SRH 13 | PBKS 7
ONLY MEETING	PREVIOUS MEETING
GT won by eight runs, 2022	PBKS won by five wickets, 2022

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

SRH desperately in need of a reboot against upbeat PBKS

V.S. Aravind
HYDERABAD

Silver lining: Rashid's two in two was the only bright spot for Sunrisers against Lucknow Super Giants. AFP

Sunrisers Hyderabad will be keen to adopt a fresh approach when it faces an upbeat Punjab Kings in the IPL at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here on Sunday.

Sunrisers, the 2016 champion, will aim to resurrect their campaign against the Shikhar Dhawan-led side that has ticked almost all the boxes so far.

Punjab Kings won both its matches with Dhawan, Prabhsimran Singh and Bhanuka Rajapaksa among the runs.

Arshdeep Singh and Nathan Ellis have kept the Punjab flag soaring by making early inroads and Curran checkmating the opposition with nerves of steel in the death overs.

Batting let Sunrisers down in both their games and the batsmen getting caged in the middle is something the team would need to address. Star signing Harry Brook and Mayank Agarwal are yet to deliver and a brittle middle-order was exposed in both outings.

Aiden Markram was dismissed for a first-ball duck in his first match and the skipper's batting will be crucial if his team is to break the losing streak.

Languishing at the bottom of the table, Sunrisers need to reboot, with the batters taking control of the campaign's steering wheel.

Ding and Nepomniachtchi are the most interesting to watch: Anand

CHESS

P.K. Ajith Kumar

The absence of Magnus Carlsen has robbed the World chess championship some of its sheen no doubt, but Viswanathan Anand believes it is still going to be an exciting affair.

The Norwegian's abdication means chess will have a new World champion for the first time since 2013, but he will not be an undisputed one.

The match between Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi and China's Ding Liren begins at Astana on Sunday.

"It is going to be a very exciting World championship, with two very strong participants," Anand, a five-time World champion, told *The Hindu* over phone from the Kazakhstan capital. "Since the pairing is slightly unexpected, it adds a twist to it. I would say that Ding and Nepomniachtchi are not just two of the strongest but most interesting players to watch as well."

Battle of wits: Anand feels the contrasting styles of Nepomniachtchi and Ding makes their contest a must-see. FILE PHOTO & RAJEEV BHATT

Anand, for whom this is the first World championship after becoming the FIDE deputy president, feels the contrast in styles of Ding and Nepomniachtchi augurs well for the title-clash. "I think they are fairly equal in terms of ability," he said.

"I would favour Nepomniachtchi slightly because recently he has made dramatic progress and his victory in the Candidates tournament was very convincing. Ding played much less due to Covid restrictions."

Anand said patience was one of Ding's strengths. "He will give his all in every position," he said. "He is much more stable and has this ability to come up with good ideas in his openings, which is all the more remarkable because he has a reputation of working alone."

He feels Nepomniachtchi has a little bit of unpredictability about him. "He is very much an all-rounder," he said. "He is also incredibly prepared, I think he trained hard for his match against Carlsen. His touch of genius can become a weakness sometimes."

He said it was unfortunate that Carlsen was not taking part. "But it also means that instead of one, two very exciting players are getting chances," he said. "In terms of impact, the first Chinese World champion could be historic and could have a dramatic effect on the game."

Koepka takes command even as storm halts play

AUGUSTA MASTERS

Agence France-Presse
AUGUSTA

Four-time Major winner Brooks Koepka, who moved to the LIV series, seized command of the Masters with a sizzling five-under 67 before a storm that uprooted trees halted Friday's second round at Augusta National.

Koepka torched the par-5 holes for an eagle and three birdies in a bogey-free round. His superb shot-making followed an opening 65, his lowest Masters round, and left him on 12-under 132 for 36 holes, three strokes in front.

Rahm second

After winning last week's LIV Golf event in Orlando, Koepka could produce the PGA Tour's nightmare scenario of a victory on one of golf's greatest stages by a player from the breakaway circuit.

Causing a flutter: LIV's Koepka is raising anxious brows among PGA officialdom with his assured play. GETTY IMAGES

Third-ranked Jon Rahm, the 2021 US Open winner, was second on nine-under after making a seven-foot birdie putt on the par-5 eighth and a 12-footer for birdie on the ninth.

US Amateur champion Sam Bennett fired a 68 to stand third on 136. The 23-year-old Texan, could be the first amateur in a Masters last pairing in 65 years and was confident he can defeat Koepka.

World No. 2 Rory McIlroy, who needs a Masters victory to complete a career Grand Slam, fired a 77 to stand on 149, three strokes over the projected cut line. Top-ranked defending champion Scottie Scheffler struggled to a 75 to stand on 143, 11 off the lead.

Tiger Woods, a 15-time Major winner and five-time Masters champion, was level par through 11 holes and on the projected two-over cutline overall.

Later, South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen, the 2010 British Open champion, withdrew due to an unspecified injury.

Sreenidi Deccan holds Bengaluru FC to a draw

SUPER CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOZHIKODE

After the match between the ISL and I-League runners-up, it was Sreenidi Deccan that had reasons to be pleased. It held the mighty Bengaluru FC to a 1-1 draw in the Super Cup football tournament opener here on Saturday.

With just one team qualifying for the semifinals from a group, Bengaluru, the ISL side, will have to come up with a better performance in its two remaining matches in the league stage.

Early lead

Bengaluru took an early lead, through Javi Hernandez, who found the target after a couple of rebounds off a fine assist from Naorem Roshan Singh.

Sreenidi equalised after 11 minutes, through Faysal Shayesteh, and continued to put pressure on their fancied rival. It was Bengaluru that enjoyed more of the possession in the opening half but it was let down by poor finishing.

Even-stevens: Javi Hernandez and Faysal Shayesteh scored for their respective teams. K. RAGESH

Towards the end of the game, Sunil Chhetri missed a chance from close. It wasn't a good day for him; he had an opportunity as early as the eighth minute of the match.

Later, Kerala Blasters opened its campaign with a 3-1 victory against RoundGlass Punjab, the I-League champion.

The results: Bengaluru FC 1 (Javi Hernandez 10) drew with Sreenidi Deccan 1 (Faysal Shayesteh 21).

Kerala Blasters 3 (Dimitrios Diamantakos 41-pen, Nishu Kumar 54, K.P. Rahul 90+5) bt RoundGlass Punjab 1 (Krishnananda Singh 73).

India advances in AFC women's Olympic qualifiers

Press Trust of India
BISHKEK

The Indian women's team registered its second successive win, a 4-0 victory over host Kyrgyz Republic here on Friday, to seal qualification for the second round of the 2024 AFC women's Olympic qualifying tournament.

Having defeated the host 5-0 in its first match earlier this week, India extended its dominance over the Kyrgyz Republic once again, with Sandhiya Ranganathan netting a brace, and Anju Tamang and substitute Renu scoring a goal each.

Kyrgyz Republic looked to stretch the Indian defence wide, a move Dennerby soon countered by bringing on speedy fullback Ranjana Chanu in place of Manisa Panna.

With 10 minutes of regulation time left, Dennerby introduced Renu, Michel Castanha and Dangmei Grace in place of Indumathi, Sangita and Sandhiya.

That substitutions made an instant impact as Renu headed in a corner by Dalima Chhibber.

Dominant: India proved too good for Kyrgyz Republic again. TWITTER@INDIANFOOTBALL

Chelsea crashes on Lampard return, Newcastle posts win

EURO LEAGUES

Agencies
MANCHESTER

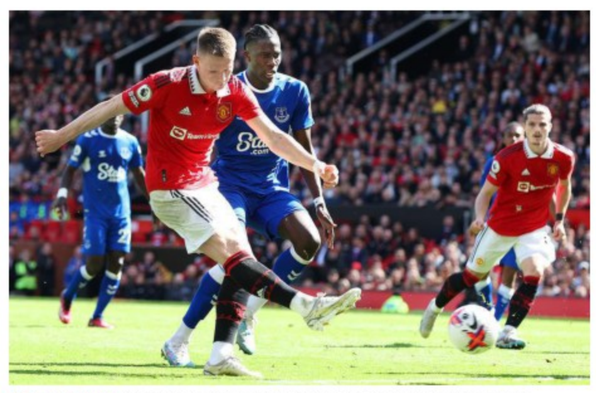
Frank Lampard failed to spark Chelsea as his first game back in charge ended in a 1-0 defeat at Wolves, while Manchester United and Newcastle consolidated their hold on places in the Premier League's top four on Saturday.

Chelsea remains 11th after a fourth consecutive game without a win. The presence of Lampard, Chelsea's record goalscorer, did little to inspire his players and Matheus Nunes won it for Wolves in the 32nd minute with a superb half-volley into the far corner from the edge of the area.

At Old Trafford, Manchester United beat Everton 2-0 to stay fourth.

Third-placed Newcastle is above United on goal difference after a 2-1 success at Brentford made it five consecutive wins for the Magpies.

Napoli had unfortunate Antonino Gallo's own goal to thank for getting its Serie A title bid back on track with a 2-1 win at Lecce on Friday, while AC Milan was held to a goalless draw by Empoli.



The opener: McTominay scores United's first against Everton. GETTY IMAGES

The results:

Premier League: Manchester United 2 (McTominay 36, Martial 71) bt Everton 0; Aston Villa 2 (Traore 48, Watkins 90+5) bt Nottingham Forest 0; Brentford 1 (Toney 45+1-pen) lost to Newcastle United 2 (Raya 54-og, Isak 61); Fulham 0 lost to West Ham 1 (Reed 23-og); Leicester City 0 lost to Bournemouth 1 (Billing 40); Tottenham 2 (Heung-Min 10, Kane 79) bt Brighton 1 (Dunk 34); Wolves 1 (Nunes 31) bt Chelsea 0; Southampton 1 (Mara 72) lost to Manchester City 4 (Haaland 45, 68, Grealish 58, Alvarez 75-pen).

LaLiga: Espanyol 1 (Darder 90) lost to Athletic Bilbao 2 (Inaki Williams 22, Nico Williams 75).

Serie A: Udinese 2 (Lovric 18, Beto 90+2-pen) drew with Monza 2 (Colpani 48, Rovella 56).

Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 2 (Malen 28, Moukoko 79) bt Union Berlin 1 (Behrens 61); Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Adli 10, Diaby 34, Azmoun 90+5) bt Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Sow 74); Freiburg 0 lost to Bayern Munich 1 (de Ligt 51); Mainz 2 (Ajorque 85, Weiper 90+3) drew with Werder Bremen 2 (Stage 87, Fullkrug 90+5); Augsburg 1 (Vargas 29) lost to Cologne 3 (Skhiri 7, Martel 16, Maina 59).

On Friday: LaLiga: Sevilla 2 (En Nesyri 43, Acuna 81) drew with Celta Vigo 2 (Rodriguez 89, Paciencia 90+3).

Serie A: Lecce 1 (Di Francesco 52) lost to Napoli 2 (Di Lorenzo 18, Gallo 64-og); AC Milan 0 drew with Empoli 0; Salernitana 1 (Candreva 90) drew with Inter 1 (Gosens 6).

INBRIEF

Tejaswin Shankar clinches decathlon silver

India's Tejaswin Shankar bagged the decathlon silver and came close to breaking the national record at the Jim Click shootout competition in Arizona (USA). Tejaswin competed in the 10-event decathlon and scored a cumulative 7,648 points – 10 less than Bharatinder Singh's national record of 7,658 set in 2011. The competition was held at the University of Arizona's Tucson campus and is recognised by United States Track and Field. Till Steinforth of Nebraska took the gold with 7,845 points. Tejaswin won the high jump (2.19m) and 400m (48.41s). The other events are 100m, long jump, shot put, 110m hurdles race, discus throw, pole vault, javelin throw and 1,500m. Tejaswin also breached the Asian Games standard of 7,500 points, set by the Athletics Federation of India.

Seifert blasts New Zealand to T20 series win over Sri Lanka

Tim Seifert was match-winner, with a career-high 88 off 48 balls, for the second straight game as New Zealand clinched the T20 series against Sri Lanka with a tense four-wicket victory in Queenstown on Saturday.

The scores: Sri Lanka 182/6 in 20 overs (Pathum Nissanka 25, Kusal Mendis 73, Kusal Perera 33) lost to New Zealand 183/6 in 19.5 overs (Tim Seifert 88, Tom Latham 31; Lahiru Kumara 3/38).

Priyanshu makes the Orleans Masters final with ease

India's Priyanshu Rajawat stormed into the finals of the Orleans Masters Super 300 badminton tournament with a straight-game demolition of Ireland's Nhat Nguyen in the semifinals in Orleans on Saturday. The 21-year-old dished out an attacking game to outplay the World No. 35 Nguyen 21-12, 21-9 in a lop-sided singles semifinals to progress to his maiden final of a Super 300 world tour event.

REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Parnell, Vyshak named in RCB squad

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), on Friday, named Wayne Parnell and Vyshak Vijay Kumar as replacements for the injured Reece Topley and Rajat Patidar for the remainder of IPL 2023.

South African speedster Parnell has 59 T20I wickets and 26 scalps in the IPL, a tournament he last played in 2014. Vyshak has 22 T20 wickets for Karnataka and was in fine form in the just-concluded season.

Shivaprasad passes away

D. Shivaprasad, a former MEG, Services and Mysore state footballer, passed away in Bengaluru on Friday. He was 82.

Shivaprasad played for Mysore in the Santosh Trophy at Kollam in 1965 and then represented Services in the 1968 edition in Bengaluru. After retirement, he had a stint as a referee and also coached the ITI junior team.

The KSFA and BDFA condoled his death.

Good day for Mangalore BC

Mangalore BC won both its super league matches of the day in the Karnataka Rural Basketball League at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru.

In the morning, it thrashed Vivekananda BC 82-50 while in the evening contest it recorded a 78-56 victory over Pinakini BC.

The results (super league): Aryans, Mysuru 96 (Deepak 33, Dhavan 20) bt Pinakini, Gauri Bidanur 74 (Venugopal 18, Chandan 11); Mangalore BC 82 (Ashwij 18, Pradyumna 16) bt Vivekananda, Mandya 50 (Raghavendra 12, Amartya 11); Mangalore BC 78 (Aditya 21, Ashwij 13) bt Pinakini, Gauribidanur 56 (Vidya Sagar 16, Danny 13); Vivekananda, Mandya 73 (Amartya 17, Shrujan 15) bt Aryans, Mysuru 69 (Dhavan 22, Shakthi 18, Deepak 14) [after extra-time; full-time score: 59-59].

Bopanna training in Monte Carlo after a refreshing break of 10 days at home

The oldest player to win a Masters title, he is happy to have retained the ability to compete at this level despite not being at his best physically

TENNIS

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

It has been a fine season for Rohan Bopanna. The 43-year-old is keen to make the best of the clay-court swing to enhance his qualification chances for the ATP Finals in Turin, Italy.

After a refreshing 10 days at home in Bengaluru, Bopanna is training in Monte Carlo, getting ready for the Masters event.

"Even if you do well in 10 tournaments, and feel confident, it is still anybody's game when the match enters the super tie-break.

Sharp and agile: Bopanna says his mind is ready to react while playing crucial points. FILE PHOTO

We should have won in two sets. We had more chances in the first set. They took big lead in the match tie-break. It was hard, especially against Fabrice Martin's massive serve," observed Bopanna, about the first-round loss in Miami.

It was indeed disappointing for him to lose early in Miami after winning the title in Indian Wells. Yet, the sense of achievement was intact.

"Am extremely proud to be the oldest player to win a Masters title. I am happy to have sustained the ability to compete at this level, despite not being physically at my best. The mind is working and am adapting to situations on crucial points.

"Indian Wells is one of the biggest among the Masters events. Lot of Indians come to watch. Am happy to represent India, as they put up the national flag for every athlete who competes in the event," said Bopanna.

He was particularly pleased with the recovery he had, as the final and semifinals were played within 24 hours.

"I really believe in the travelling physio. It is an extremely key aspect for good performance", said Bopanna, who has been travelling with physio Rebecca van Orshaegen of Belgium, with considerable success.

"There are three Masters events before the French Open. We are playing as many practice sets as possible.

"I have had good results on clay. But as a team, we want to stay within limits. Try individually to play our best. We are still learning to move well on clay," said Bopanna.

Thapa, Hussamuddin and Bhoria headline Indian squad for Worlds

BOXING

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Six-time Asian championships medallist Shiva Thapa (63.5kg), double Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg) and Asian silver medallist Deepak Bhoria (51kg) are some leading names who have made the Indian squad for the World boxing championships to be held in Tashkent from April 30 to May 14.

Even as the selection of Shiva and Hussamuddin was along expected lines, the return of Deepak, who pipped World Championships silver medallist and Commonwealth Games champion Amit Panghal through the three-week-long evaluation process, came as a surprise.

Shiva Thapa. FILE PHOTO

Mohammad Hussamuddin. PTI

Deepak, who defeated 2016 Olympic and 2019 World champion Uzbek Shakhobidin Zoirov at the 2021 Strandja Memorial tournament, returned to the camp in January last following rehab to fix a shoulder injury. He excelled in the evaluation process to score 731 points against Amit's 682.

"My injury flared up after the Commonwealth Games trials as I was not sure whether I should continue with the rehab. Again, I did rehab for three months before rejoining the camp," Deepak, who last competed in an international event in the 2021 World championships, told *The Hindu*.

While Shiva, who had Olympian and Worlds bronze medallist Manish Kaushik as one of his competitors in 63.5kg, would be keen to add another medal to his 2015 Worlds bronze, Hussamuddin, an Asian bronze medallist, would like to open his account in the elite event.

Olympian and 2019 Asian silver medallist Ashish Chaudhary (80kg), who had lost in the National championships, booked his spot. While Naveen Kumar (92kg) pipped former Asian champion Sanjeet by 12 points, Narender Berwal (+92kg) beat Commonwealth Games medallist Sagar Ahlawat by 20 points.

The Indian team will leave for Tashkent on April 17 to attend a multi-nation training camp before the event. In seven Olympic weight categories – 51kg, 57kg, 63.5kg, 71kg, 80kg, 92kg and +92kg – two boxers each will participate in the camp.

The squad: Govind Sahani (48kg), Deepak Bhoria (51kg), Sachin Siwach Jr. (54kg), Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg), Varinder Singh (60kg), Shiva Thapa (63.5kg), Akash Sangwan (67kg), Nishant Dev (71kg), Sumit Kundu (75kg), Ashish Chaudhary (80kg), Harsh Choudhary (86kg), Naveen Kumar (92kg) and Narender Berwal (92+kg).

33-member core group for national hockey camp

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

Hockey India (HI) will conduct a 35-day senior women's national camp here from Sunday to fine tune the "structure" and "tactics" of the core group ahead of the tour of Australia in May.

Women's team chief coach Janneke Schopman said the camp, to be held from Sunday to May 13 for the 33 probables and followed by the series against Australia, will give her a fair idea where the team stands against the top countries.

"After the last camp, in which we were able to establish our baseline for the needed physical output and addressed individual improvements, we are looking to improve our team structure and tactics," said Schopman in a HI release on Saturday.

"Playing Australia in Australia at the end of this camp will help us assess where we are compared to the top teams of women's hockey," she added.

Schopman.
FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

The core probables group:

Goalkeepers: Savita, E. Rajani, Bichu Devi Kharibam, Bansari Solanki.

Defenders: Deep Grace Ekka, Gurjit Kaur, Nikki Pradhan, Udita, Ishika Chaudhary, Akshata Abaso Dhekale, Jyoti Chhatri, Mahima Chaudhary.

Midfielders: Nisha, Salima Tete, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Jyoti, Navjot Kaur, Monika, Mariana Kujur, Sonika, Neha, Baljeet Kaur, Reena Khokhar, Vaishnavi Phalke, Ajmina Kujur.

Forwards: Lalremsiami, Navneet Kaur, Vandana Katariya, Sharmila Devi, Deepika, Sangita Kumari, Mumtaz Khan, Sunelita Toppo.

LIVE TELECAST

BWF Orleans Masters: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 2.30 p.m.

Chess World championships: FIDE & *Chess.com YouTube* channels, 2.30 p.m. onwards

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.

Super Cup football: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5 & 8.30 p.m.

LaLiga: Jio Cinema App, 5.30 & 7.45 p.m.; Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday)

Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 & 9 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony LIV, 7 & 9 p.m.

Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.15 a.m. (Monday)

Augusta Masters: 1Sports, 12.30 a.m. (Monday)